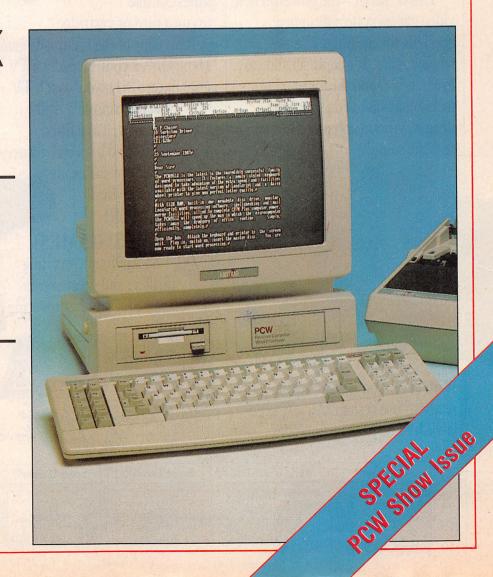
# COMPULAR COMPULATION OF THE PROPERTY OF THE PR

## Amstrad PCW 9512 review inside

NEWS DESK Spectrum price cuts

SOFTWARE ST Basics compared

PCW Show Floor plan and stand guide inside



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- 18 Amstrad PCW 9512 The new Amstrad wordprocessor is one of the stars of this week's PCW Show. Ian Rook puts Joyce 2 through its paces.

#### | Save | Save.R | Quit | Hem | HBlk StafReplace| Pg up |Text 16|Direct | Run | Load | Herge | Llist | Block |Blk End| Find | Pg down|Insert | Flip | Test ATARI ST: BASIC CONVERTER ST BASIC to GFA-BASIC GfA -Basic / (c) 1986 by GfA Systemtechnik' by Klaus Keller, Herdecke" Version 3.8 / 18.18.1986" ng program is still under development" "FUNCTIONS OF THE PROGRAM:" "PART A:" "I) Insert missing GOTO's after THEM or ELSE" "(2) Replace line numbers being branched to with markers' "(3) Emplete the procedure for program branches" "(4) Replace all GOTAM with PRIM A:" "(5) List from a Desimning narth to an ending nark"

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Top: Amstrad CPC. Second: Fast Basic. Above: Super Sprint. Below: Moonstrike.

#### Games

58 New Releases Your complete guide to all the programs released this week, including Moonstrike, Enterprize and Elite's Six Pak . . .



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# Amstrad pulls back on CPCs

AMSTRAD is chopping £50 off Spectrum Plus 3 from this week, and £10 off the Plus 2. Both machines will now be bundled with a joystick and 17 games.

The move has increased speculation about the future of the CPC range of 8-bit Amstrad machines, particularly as it has

emerged that WH Smith is dropping it. Advertising for the CPC has been cancelled with a number of leading computer magazines, and WHS computer buyer lan Laurie admitted last week that the chain is no longer handling it.

"It is not a line that we will continue selling," he said.



CPC: dealers say demand is holding up.

The future of the range has been in doubt for some time.

An Amstrad spokesman denied that the cuts have been made in response to trade pressure and described the announcement as a "commercial move". He said he had no information on the future of the CPCs.

The Plus 3 now sells for £199, while the new Plus 2 is £139.

## **Teleconference doubts**

MICRONET is soon to introduce a tele-conferencing facility, for 'private' or 'closed group' discussions.

The facility will work with both viewdata and 80-column scrolling formats (another new addition to Prestel's features) and will be available on a pay-asyou-go basis.

But recent allegations by the likes of Independent Television's Roger Cook over illegal use of bulletin boards for child pornography contacts, have raised doubts about the ethics

and the legality of a 'closed user group' where topics of conversations will not be dictated.

David Rosenbaum, Micronet's Marketing Manager understood the possible difficulties, but commented:

"Conversations that take place in locked rooms will be totally private and confidential – that's part of the attraction of the teleconferencing system."

Next week Popular will be looking in more depth at Micronet's new developments.



## GST launches Desktop Publisher

AT A press launch last Wednesday, GST showed off their latest product, *Timeworks Desktop Publisher*. Available in England from November, there will be an Atari ST version costing £99 and a version for the Amstrad PC and compatibles, the price for which was undecided at time of going to press.

GST's Chris Scheybeler pointed out that the company had a good background in the area, with their programmers having written the *First Word* suite of word processors as well as producing specialist software for electronic typesetting systems used by local and national newspapers.

At a sneak preview before the official press launch, Popular had a chance to see the program and its extensive list of features. One advantage over the competition will be the wealth of printer support, with drivers already written for nearly all 9 and 24 pin matrix printers as well as Postscript and HP Laser printers, and the option of sending postscript files to disc for professional typesetting. No software currently supports the Atari Laser printer because Atari have yet to confirm the specification, but GST promise one soon.

Being based on the GEM operating system, Timeworks

will be fully menu driven with optional "short cuts" to duplicate menu commands for those who prefer to leave their hands on the keyboard. GST in the past have written "mouse only" software.

A sophisticated graphics editor, similar to Easy Draw, will be included within the main program to create either stand alone illustrations or to embellish imported pictures. So far the programs that Timeworks will support include all those producing GEM format files (GEM Draw, GEM Paint, Easy Draw, etc) and Degas Elite, Neochrome and PC-Paintbrush. A superior picture manipulation facility is promised, to alter picture size without the usual distortions.

Text can either be entered directly or be prepared on a separate word processor and imported. Text can be imported in either ASCII, WordStar, First Word or Word Writer files.

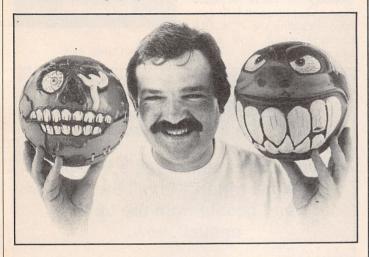
Other features include automatic hyphenation and frame rejection, so that if a block of text has a picture placed over it, the software will automatically reformat the area. GST had yet to decide on the number of fonts, but said that at least there would be a Times lookalike and a few special headline fonts is in the larger point sizes.

## Balls go bananas

OCEAN Software have acquired the rights to produce a computer game based on the Madballs range of toys.

Pictured is Ocean Director Jon Woods and two of the Madballs, which are produced by American company TCFC (Those Characters From Cleveland) Inc. In the game you will play the part of Dustbrain, a sort of Madball Thatcher, whose aim is to eliminate his political opponents, Screamin' Memmie and Slobulus, by controlling the planet's supply of cabbage and fish heads.

The Madballs game will be released in December for Amstrad CPCs, C64 and Spectrum.



## Popular needs a Staff Writer

POPULAR Computing Weekly needs you! We have a vacancy for a Staff Writer, and you could be the right person for the job.

The position will involve writing copy for our news pages, as well as helping out on the rest of the magazine with features, reviews and interviews.

Knowledge of the home computer industry is important, but so is the ability to write, learn quickly, work to tight schedules, and fit into a small, friendly team. The ideal candidate will be young, enthusiastic and looking for his/her first steps into an exciting career in computer journalism.

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More news pages 6 & 11

#### SOFTWARE HOTLINES

Dilemma:

A well known software house sends you a press release about their next release, based on some daft boardgame.

Do you chuck it in the bin and forget all about it, and risk upsetting the company (thereby missing out on lunch at the PCW show), or do you praise it to the skies?

This is the sort of problem you'll have to face if you buy being planned by Leisure Genius.

tions, all of which allow you to is always worrying). drop someone else in the Also at the show will be merde, and if you can't find Zarch, Superior's new Archities that you can play against.

Virgin Games (which owns basing games on the real-life (?) rights to the Action Force range of toys, which is probably a for it than for the +3 Spectrum. good move. And, at this very week.

So now games like Knightlore, that, Andrew). Alien 8, and Sabrewulfe which

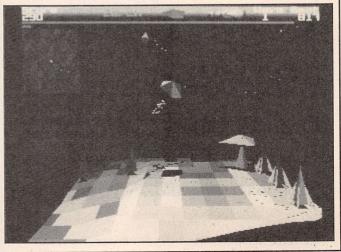
probably got more rave reviews for **Ultimate** than any other games in the history of the universe, can be yours for just

Having tied up James Dean for a licensing deal, US Gold has also added Sir Charles Chaplin to their stable of stars. They've come up with a game in which you have to choose a script for a silent movie, then cast it and gather together all the props and scenery. The action in the film is made up of arcade sequences that you take part in as the Tramp character, and you play these back to edit them into a complete film Scruples, the computer version for release in the cinemas, with of the well-known boardgame your score depending on the audience's reaction. It all sounds very odd (US Gold keep The game has over 200 ques- using the word 'concept', which

anyone willing to play the game medes game that we menwith you then the computer has tioned recently. We can now let 64 preprogrammed personali- you have a look at it with the nice little screen shot below. The Archimedes is also about to Leisure Genius), has given up get its first graphics package, in the form of Artisan from Clare's adventures of Richard Branson, Micro Supplies. The machine and have decided to license the isn't in the shops yet, but there's already more software

More news of Hewson's moment a copy of their How To Magnatron; this is Steve Tur-Be A Complete Bastard game is ner's follow up to Quazatron biking its way to me, so there'll and features the continuing adprobably be a review in next ventures of the KLZP 'droid this time onboard a space sta-Does anybody out there re-tion, where it has to destroy a member the fuss that we all number of nuclear reactors. used to make just before the There's a screen shot above (to release of a new Ultimate make up for the upside down game? Well, Mastertronic one that we had on last week's have just acquired the rights to cover, and for the screenshot of rerelease Ultimate's old titles a non-Hewson game in a recent on their Ricochet budget label. Hewson review. Sorry about

Cliff Joseph



## NEXT WEEK

#### Date with danger

Popular Computing Weekly has achieved the near impossible and obtained an audience with Alan Sugar.

Is Amstrad dropping the CPC Range? Will there be any more new models? What is to become of the Spectrum range? All these questions and more will be answered in next week's interview.

#### The big three

Can the Acorn Archimedes really compete with the likes of the Commodore Amiga and Atari ST?

In this full test, Popular looks in depth at these three machines and draws some controversial conclusions.

#### The Mild One

Is Bill Stealey, the President of Microprose, really as 'wild' as everyone makes out? Popular met the man behind the mouth and drew some surprising conclusions.

#### **PCW News**

The show may be over, but the reports go on. *Popular* will not only bring you the first full report of the show, it will also be the most complete.

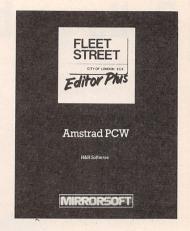
Pages dedicated to 8 and 16 bit software, as well as news and views on the latest hardware from the show.

Popular will, as always, be the magazine that gives you the low-down on the latest developments.

## Deep pockets

MIRRORSOFT has announced a deal with W H Smith to display DTP packages in its top fifty stores, and has slashed the price of Fleet Street Editor Plus by £20.

The selected outlets will be stocking the whole Mirrorsoft Fleet Street range of DTP software, including the PCW DTP package which now costs £49.95.



Fleet Street Editor Plus

## **PCW Show**

Don't miss next week's *Popular* for a full report with all the news and gossip from the tenth annual show.

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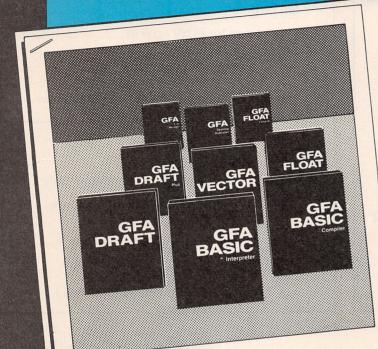
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## on piracy

THE BMF last week announced that it is to mount a major campaign against software piracy, something which is estimated to cost the UK computer industry around £150 million every year.

Welcoming action taken by FAST (the Federation Against Software Theft), and the arrival of new legislation to combat the problem, BMF spokesman Clive Booth warned:

"Legislation and litigation can only address the worst abusers. We need a parallel effort to educate both business and the public at large about the issues.

"People need to understand that buying software is effectively buying a licence to use information, and not a 'buy and do as you please' commodity," he added.

"It's a little like a road fund licence. There are rules and guidelines to be observed wherever you go and it should be the same with software.

## BMF steps in Addictive fixes it for a new Nixon

ADDICTIVE Games, a part of the Prism Leisure Corporation PLC, has recently re-launched President, a game designed to test your ability to rule effectively the nation.

Priced at £2.99 this time around, the game gives you the chance to become the next Roosevelt or Nixon (although the game seems not to incorporate such unplanned disasters as Chappaquiddick and Watergate).

Programmed by Kevin Toms, the man responsible for the original strategy success, Football Manager; President includes such day to day traumas as oil wars, balance of payments difficulties, and electoral

President will be re-released on September 23rd, and will be available for the Amstrad CPC range of computers, as well as the Spectrum and Commodore

#### DIARY DATES

#### SEPTEMBER

#### 23-27 September **Personal Computer World** Show

Olympia, London Details: Latest hardware, software and peripherals for business and leisure computing

Price: £3, £2 - (parties over 10) Organiser: Montbuild 01-486 1951

#### OCTOBER

#### 15-17 October

#### **Desktop Publishing Show**

Business Design Centre, London

**Details:** Demonstrations of latest hardware and peripherals, plus seminars and user clinics

Organiser: Database Exhibitions, 061-456 8383

NOVEMBER

#### 14 November

#### **National Einstein Exhibition**

National Motorcycle Museum, Birmingham

Details: Einstein software etc.

Price: 50p

Organiser: UKEUG (0473)

Prices, dates and venues of shows can vary, and you are therefore strongly advised to check with the show organiser before attending. We cannot accept responsibility for any alterations to show arrangements.

## Softek's budget label at Show

FOLLOWING the launch of its ACE arcade label, leading software house Softek International has also announced its plans to enter the budget market with a second new label.

The Micro Selection range will be launched at this week's PCW show, and the initial batch of releases will include repackaged hits such as Thai boxing, and Sky Runner. Future releases will be a mixture of both original titles and further rereleases, though there are no definite plans to repackage any old Softek or Edge titles as yet.

The new label will be priced at £1.99, but there is also likely to be budget material available for the ST and Amiga later this year, probably to be aimed at below the £10 mark.

A Softek spokesperson told Popular:

'This isn't second-hand material. We're very excited about launching the two new labels, and we know that this is going to be a sure-fire hit for Christmas.'

## Equinox may see the light of day

TYNESOFT, the rapidly expanding games software house, has purchased Mikro Gen from the CSD receiver.

This is an odd turn of fate for Mikro Gen who were sold. Colin Courtney, Managing Director of Tynesoft, said that most of the existing titles would be released in Tynesoft's Microvalue range, but that some of the as yet unreleased software (such as the long awaited ST version of Equinox) would be released at full price later in the year.

The purchase concludes a good week, and indeed year, for Tynesoft which published accounts showing turnover up to over £1,000,000 and profits up

The dispute over the Sparklers titles which Maynard International recently bought from CSD has been settled.

A total of 120 Sparklers items will now appear either under the Sparklers imprint itself, otherwise on Alternative or Top Ten.

## Glentop brought to book with GFA title

GLENTOP Press Ltd, publishers of GFA Basic, has announced details of a forthcoming book on the language. The book, written by GFA Basic's author, Frank Ostrowkski, will cover programming all aspects of GEM, graphics, and other applications. It is due for release in mid-October and will be over 280 pages and be bundled with a disc containing numerous example programs.

The much delayed 3-D graphics package for the Atari ST, GFA vector, will now be released at the PCW show, part of the delay being due to poor duplication of the German translated manual.

The program, which integrates fully with GFA Basic, features up to 1024 points, 1024 lines, 32 objects. It also sports rotation in one degree steps upwards, about X, Y and Z axes and scaling factors from 1,64th to 8 times.

Contact Glentop Press on 01-441 4130.

#### LETTERS

### Wonderful, wonderful life

As a regular reader of PCW I never cease to be amazed at Kenn Garroch's ability to answer the many diverse problems as posed in his PEEK & POKE column. How can one person know so much about so many different computers, be it a technical or programming problem, and then again have time to compose the sometimes quite involved programs required as answers. He certainly receives my admiration and I'm sure that of your other readers. It's good to know that there's someone to fall back on during these times of computer advancement.

> John McCleave Dorset

Cruel world

As a serious computer user I feel compelled to write regarding the advert that Commodore has been running about the Amiga A500.

I feel that it's rather cruel of Commodore to categorise other home and business computers as fit for the toy cupboard.

In fact I doubt if many serious programmers and business users would ever need to use a computer with a blitter chip, four channel stereo sound and brilliant colour graphics – unless of course they are games programmers.

Judging by the large percentage of games-oriented software on the Amiga, I fail to see why Commodore cannot claim its A500 to be no more than a toy as well. After all a toy is a machine whose major function in life is to play games.

And of course if the computer's sound, colour graphics and screen handling is better than the other computers', then you have – a super toy.

Can you see an accountant using a complex spreadsheet needing all that?

As for the speed of the Amiga A500 I suppose it is relatively fast (with its 16-bit databus and a cpu speed of 7.14mHz when compared to, say, the PC or other 8-bit machines.

But when it is compared to the Atari 520STFM (also with a 16-bit databus and a cpu speed of 8mHz) or the 640k Sinclair QL (which only has an 8-bit data bus and a cpu speed of 7.5mHz) the A500 is somewhat slow. Although the A500 is faster when dealing with the screen and sound because of its dedicated chips in this area.

Don't get me wrong. I am not writing this letter to bring the wrath of Commodore and the Amiga users upon me.

I just think it's sad when a reputable firm like Commodore which has been in the computer industry for a number of years should act below the belt and go computer bashing. Isn't there enough computer-bashing going on among rival computer users without the need for the big companies joining in?

Finally, on a lighter note, I think that the Amiga A500 is a wonderful machine (if you can afford it!) and I shall be saving up my pennies for one.

A terminal junkie somewhere in the British Isles.

We look forward to other reader's comments on this. Your comment regarding business users not needing the Amiga's graphics capabilities has also been made by senior industry observers.

But surely Commodore is free to pitch its advertising as it sees fit?

## A not quite right knight

With reference to PCW issue 11/9/87. On pages 10 and 11 you carry an interview with Sir Clive Sinclair in which reference is made to the Acorn Archimedes. having long been an admirer of Sir Clive I am sorry to see him making such remarks that bring back memories of the original BBC contract comments from Sir Clive. I am sad to say that he has got his facts wrong, or if he hasn't then the programs used to test the speed were very badly written.

Sir Clive states that multiplying two numbers takes 23 micro seconds on the Archimedes. Apart from being a sweeping statement without any explanation or qualification it is wrong.

There is no indication of the size of the numbers to be multiplied so I will give details of two separate cases. To multiply two numbers together to produce a 32 bit result will have a worst case time of 2.125 micro seconds. This is made up of 1 's' cycle and 16 'i' cycles. An 's' cycle takes 125 nano-seconds in RAM and 250 nano-seconds in ROM. All 'i' cycles take 125

nano-seconds. A multiply by 0 or 1 takes 125 nano-seconds.

If you require double precision with a 64 bit result then using a sensible routine results in a worst case time of 5 micro seconds. Certainly a lot faster than Sir Clive claims. The way in which code is written is crucial on a RISC processor and where sloppy programming might not make much difference on an 80386 it certainly does on the ARM. For instance if you include branches everywhere the code will be a lot slower. It is often much better to repeat small sections of code than to call them as a sub routine.

I am confident that the Archimedes will be a world beater just as long as we British don't kill it ourselves first.

Dave Clare director Clare's Micro Supplies

### Eprom, and on . . .

would like to suggest or request that PCW publishes an article covering the subject of EPROMs and burners.

The situation is that so many devices now contain EPROMs or ROMs, in many cases programmed with annoying characteristics that many an owner would dearly love to amend! I refer to everything from video recorders ("time-out" and revert to channel 1 aftr 2 minutes!); car alarms (delay periods) and others.

Nearer to your heart, of course, are computer ROMs with well-known bugs which the owner knows how to correct, and would like to do so. Or stretches of unused ROM locations where the owner would like to add some facilities. Second hand 8-bit computers can be picked up cheaply enough for many of your readers to want to experiment, if only they had the facilities or knowledge to burn an EPROM!

If a chip could be taken out of some gadget and paged at a known part of a computer's memory map, and assuming that the type of Processor in the gadget could be seen (frequently Z80s are used), then most of your readers would not have too much difficulty in disassembly. (Even if their computer uses a different processor, it isn't too hard to write a disassembler in BASIC).

It would be very helpful if you

could publish something covering the following points for the usual 8 and 16-bit home micros:

- How is the memory map made up, in terms of pin connections? In other words, how can you tell which memory chips on a board appear where in the map?
- 2) What are the pins on RAM chips and EPROMs?
- 3) Is there an EPROM burner available for each of the common home micros? If so, perhaps you could list suppliers?
- 4) Is it generally possible to replace ROMs with EPROMs? Are response times as good?
- 5) In general terms, what would the hardware need to be, to attach to a computer's user port for the purpose of reading in or paging in the contents of an external memory chip? I am thinking it would be good to know how to make up a "black box", perhaps with a push-button on it.

I feel that a sizeable proportion of your readership know enough and have enough programming ability to want to do this kind of thing, but would like to know more hardware, which is always the stumbling-block.

Peter Erskine

Essex

Phew, we'll see what he can do to help!

## No money for non players

was fascinated to read that Commodore can afford to shell out one and a quarter million quid for Chelsea football club, but they still can't afford to bring the price of the Amiga down to a level where it is truly competitive with the ST.

Most of the people I know who use/buy home computers' nearest contact with the sport is through playing the venerable 'Football Manager'! Even the ones that do watch football would have much rather had the money off their CBM computers...

Alan Lenton London

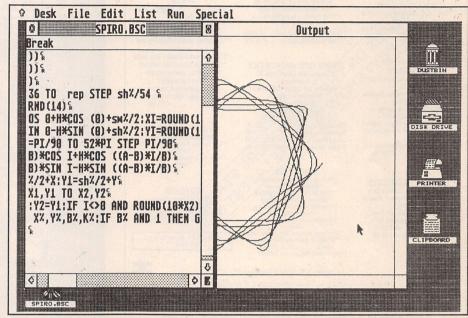
PS: I wonder if any of your readers who took up the Amiga voucher offer noticed a certain lack of enthusiasm on the part of the dealer they bought from . . . this may be to do with the fact that CBM is making the dealers pay £55 out of every £100 they give off – still they have to raise £1.25m from somewhere!

## STacks of Basic

Disc-based Basic makes the Atari ST a natural for third-party variations, but not all versions are equally useful, and Atari's own update is the worst of all, as Duncan Evans finds on the test bench.

nlike most eight bit micros, the Atari ST has two features which encourage third party implementations of Basics. The first is that the language is not built in, but supplied on disc. The result is that Atari Basic is unbelievably awful.

So which Basic do you go for? Stick with the supplied *Atari Basic*, or go for Glentop's *GFA Basic*, Computer Concept's *Fast Basic* or indulge in HiSoft's *Basic Compiler*? In this article we set out the relative merits and drawbacks of each product, and deal with them chronologically.



Fast Basic: excellent support for Gem, but sloppy cursor control

	Table 1				
PCW test	Atari	Fast	GFA	HiSoft	
1	0.9	0.145	0.105	0.048	
2	2.8	0.58	0.395	0.056	
3	5.94	1.305	1.025	0.198	
4	8.03	1.55	1.01	0.258	
5	8.03	1.505	1.085	0.263	
6	14.2	2.575	1.765	0.536	
7	20.9	4.11	2.845	1.026	
8	10.0	2.725	2.945	1.411	
Avg:	8.85	1.801	1.397	0.475	
Circle (r75)		0.34	0.055	0.075	
Solid Circle		0.34	0.17	0.21	
Box		0.09	0.0175	n/a	
(130sq)					
Solid Box		0.09	0.0475	0.075	
				Land	

Table 2				
Product	Atari	Fast	GFA	HiSoft
Price	Free	45.95	45.95	79.95
(disk)				
Editor	4	9	7	6
Features				
Ease of	1	6	9	7
Use				
Graphics	5	8	8	7
Sound	7	3	7	7
GEM	1	8	7	7
File	6	8	7	7
Handling				
Structure	4	7	8	9
Overall	2	8	9	7

#### **Atari Basic**

Atari Basic sports the most unhelpful and unusable editor that I for one have ever encountered. Half the time it doesn't dowhat it's supposed to.

One of the more annoying features is that there is no wraparound on the windows so that when a line reaches the right hand edge the whole program lurches left, and you lose track of what was on that side of the screen.

The entire thing is unbearable to program with, considering the alternatives.

As far as commands go, Atari Basic just about measures up to the good 8-bit implementations, but is sadly lacking in a number of vital areas. Graphics are only adequately catered for, although there are no sprite commands, with CIRCLE and ELLIPSE, and filled versions thereof. LINEF and a FILL that allows use of all the ST's inbuilt styles. On the subject of colour there is the ridiculous situation of having 512 colours, and not having a command to change the 16 colour pallets you start with (in low resolution).

File handling is dealt with much better as you can load and save not only Basic programs but blocks of memory with BSAVE and BLOAD. For dealing with records and data files there are OPEN, PRINT#, CLOSE, GET#, INPUT#, LINE INPUT# and WRITE# to juggle with.

Possibly the only area of *Atari Basic* that can hold its own is the sound department.

The SOUND command lets you control three music and a white noise channel with volume, notes played, octave, and duration parameters. WAVE, controls the waveforms used in SOUND, via envelope, shape, period and delay parameters. Better than the facilities offered by *Fast Basic* and just about comparable with everyone else's.

As far as structure goes you can have GOSUBs and GOTOs aplenty. There aren't any procedures, REPEAT.. UNTIL. or DO...LOOP constructs although WHILE.. WEND and IF.. THEN.. ELSE are supported. Pretty poor fare indeed.

The next black mark against this language is in the provision of GEM commands. There aren't any. Want to read the mouse, use pull down menus, alert boxes? Tough. The only option is write your own routines which poke values into CONTRL, INTIN and PTSIN arrays, and then call the required operating system routine with VDISYS for the VDI, or use GEMSYS and its arrays for the AES.

So, having determined that only the poor and the mad program in *Atari Basic* it might have come as some relief to those thinking of purchasing an ST that Metacomco *MCC Basic* will be bundled with the machine in the new year. Unfortunately *MCC Basic* can only be viewed as the finished version of what Atari is currently bundling. Most of the bugs are fixed and here are more commands, especially in the graphics department, which includes the desperately need-

continued on page 15





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#### SOFTWARE

#### continued from page 13

ed mouse and RGB ones. Low level access to the BIOS and XBIOS has been improved but alas, alas, the silly people have left the editor exactly as it was! The stupidity of this leaves me speechless.

#### **Fast Basic**

Having observed how cumbersome the *Atari Basic* editor was, Computer concepts, veterans of the BBC market, sought to produce one that rectified the faults and provided a complex and comprehensive programming environment.

Well, the editor is nothing if not packed with useful features. GEM is supported both from the point of desk top accessories and easy mouse interpretation, alert boxes, windows, drop down menus, and shrinking and expanding boxes.

Up to ten programs can be held in memory at one time, and control is easily switched between them. In the early stages of programming development this is certainly handy as you can store your main program in one segment and then test subroutines in the others.

Word processing like options are available to cut and paste sections of programs, and in the same vein you can search and replace items. Having cut a block you can even paste it into a different programming segment, so the testing subroutines concept mentioned earlier is made even easier.

If it all sounds like a bed of roses then beware, because there are a couple of weeds in this particular garden. Compared with the *Atari Basic* window system, *Fast Basic's* edit window, output window and, usually concealed, immediate windows are a definite improvement. But not so that programming becomes as easy as using the *GFA Basic* editor.

Once again there's no wraparound on the window and the manner in which text disappearing off one end is handled leaves much to be desired. It's better than *Atari Basic* but then that's not saying an awful lot. The other point is that cursor control is very sloppy, long after you take your finger off the cursor or delete keys the cursor continues to romp along.

As far as commands go, Fast Basic scores heavily. All the GEM graphics primitives are available as direct commands. From patterned lines to solid boxes with rounded edges, ellipses, circles, solid or empty. One of my favourites is the TXTSCROLL command which scrolls the contents of the text window. You specify the destination location and off the thing flies, superbly smooth, exquisitely fast. Text handling is undoubtedly best catered for by Fast Basic.

Structured programming is quite well served with IF..THEN..ELSE..ENDIF, DEF PROC and PROC, WHILE..WEND, and REPEAT..UNTIL. Strangely absent though is a DO..LOOP and EXIT LOOP construct. Fast Basic supports the usual BLOAD and BSAVE and supplies a compre-

hensive selection of file handling commands. Based on the BBC commands of old, OPENIN and OPENOUT deal with opening files for read/write operations. Also OPENUP, BGET#, BPUT#, PTR#, GETREC#, PURREC#, PRINT# and EXT#, which returns the length of a file, add to a collection which provides every means of file handling that your heart desires.

As mentioned earlier, GEM is very well supported. For the simpler functions like reading the mouse and dialogue boxes, programming is straightforward and easy. For some of the more complex GEM functions the manual abandons all hope of teaching the unconverted and recom-

that you can edit in 80 columns and still use the 16 colour mode! Only HiSoft's *Basic Compiler* has anything like a similar feature.

At the top of the edit screen is a black bar containing all the cut, paste, block move, and search and replace functions. You can either point at them with the mouse or press the relevant Function Key.

What is odd looking about *GFA* programs is that concatenation is not allowed. This, combined with automatic indenting gives listings a very structured look. Once again there is no wraparound (there isn't on any of these products) but *GFA* handles lines that are greater than the screen length a good deal more intelligently. For one thing with

```
|Save,A | Quit | New |Blk Sta|Replace| Pg up |Text 16|Direct | Run
| Merge | Llist | Block |Blk End| Find |Pg down|Insert | Flip | Test
 Load
BCIS
Clear
Print
Print "
                 ATARI ST: BASIC CONVERTER
ST BASIC to GFA-BASIC
Print "
                 **
Print "
                                                         HAII
Print "
                 Print
Print " Atari - GfA -Basic / (c) 1986 by GfA Systemtechnik"
Print " written by Klaus Keller, Herdecke"
Print " Program Version 3.0 / 10.10.1986"
Print String$(55,95)
Print "The following program is still under development"
For T=1 To 15888
Next T
Cls
Print "FUNCTIONS OF THE PROGRAM:"
Print "PART A:"
Print "(1) Insert missing GOTO's after THEM or ELSE"
Print "(2) Replace line numbers being branched to with markers"
Print "(3) Complete the procedure for program branches"
Print "(4) Replace all GOTOXY with PRINT At"
Print "(5) List from a beginning mark to an ending mark"
```

GFA Basic: incredibly fast, and very easy to edit - even in colour

mends you get a book on the subject instead.

#### **GFA Basic**

After sweeping across Europe and making large inroads into the American market SystemTechnik's *GFA Basic* reached the UK shores, to be duly marketed by Glentop.

GFA Basic's main claim to fame, if you believe all you hear, is that it is marginally faster than Fast Basic. In fact the programs run at an incredible speed, and the difference between it and Fast Basic becomes very noticeable when using graphics.

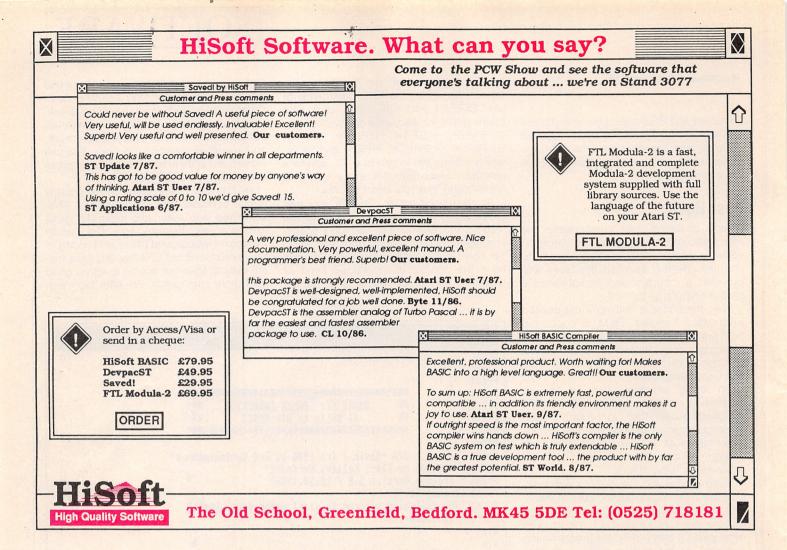
All this is highly laudable – but what makes me favour *GFA* rather than *Fast* is the editor. It undoubtedly has less features, and you can't have program segments, but what more than makes up for this is that the editor supports two screens. The edit screen and the display, which you also type commands in directly from. Switching between the two is easy, and there are no annoying windows to get in the way (unless your program uses them of course).

The edit screen works, if you are in low or medium resolution, in medium res mode so

only one command statement per line you're unlikely to run off the end of the screen. But, if you do, then only the line that you are entering scrolls off to the left. And it only does one character at a time, as you type them in at the other end of the line.

GFA Basic supports virtually the same graphics commands as Fast Basic, fills, boxes, circles, ellipses, arcs, polygons, various text styles and also a number of blitting options. GET and PUT read a specified section of memory into a string and then splat it back down on the screen again. Fast Basic and HiSoft Basic also contain these commands but the Fast Basic ones are not as impressive in terms of speed, and the HiSoft ones are very clumsy to use. As an example, if you cut a square, eight pixels by eight, you can splat it at the rate of 230 per second! Even larger areas are still gloriously fast. For whole screens though, there are a couple of dedicated commands, not seen on the other Basics, namely SGET and SPUT which simply read an entire screen into a string and then transfer it back again.

The audio department is covered as well continued on page 17





#### SOFTWARE

#### 

as Atari Basic and HiSoft, and thus better than Fast Basic, with BEEP, SOUND and WAVE

File handling is pretty good, although it falls short of the excesses offered by Fast Basic. What is done better are the poke and peek commands. GFA Basic uses POKE, DPOKE, and LPOKE for single, double and four byte operations, while Fast uses indirection operators such as? and! which can hardly be said to be as friendly. If you prefix the GFA commands with an S you can poke in the supervisory mode of the 68000, ie, reserved storage space where you are normally not allowed.

When it comes to structure, *GFA Basic* is a little odd in that its procedures are labelled PROC name(var) but are accessed with GOSUB name(var) and recalled with RETURN. Make no mistake though, quaint though they may sound, these are procedures and you can pass variables and have local variables as well.

The rother commands in this group are IF..THEN..ELSE..ENDIF, DO..LOOP, REPEAT..UNTIL and WHILE..WEND. A good selection, only bettered by *HiSoft Basic's* similar, but more flexible, structures.

As I've mentioned *GFA Basic* is very fast but there are instructions built in to make programs run even faster. INC and DEC increment and decrement a named variable by one, and make counting even faster.

Access to GEM is something of an oddity. On the one hand you have wonderfully simple mouse and dialogue box commands, and on the other, there's the rather complex, and poorly explained, menu commands. Conversely, one area where *GFA Basic* completely outstrips Fast is in providing low level access to things like the BIOS and XBIOS.

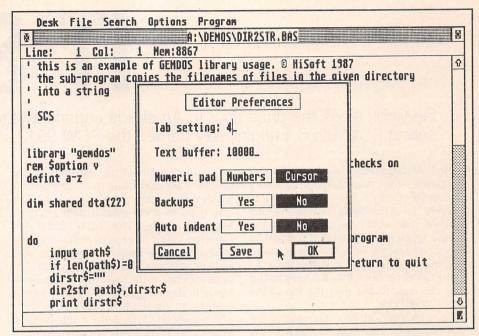
GFA Basic is good, very good in fact. But wait, the German programmers are working on version three of the program which will be a major revision. Amongst the plans at this stage are those to add another 150–200 commands to the interpreter. And, almost unbelievably, they expect the thing to run up to twice as quickly!

#### **HiSoft Basic Compiler**

The latest Basic into the fray is the *HiSoft Basic* compiler which is obviously not an interpreter, like the others, but a text editor and a compiler. Programs are thus written using the editor and then compiled either to memory or to disc.

One of the major selling points about *HiSoft Basic* is that it will compile standard *Atari Basic* programs without change, although of this I'm somewhat suspicious. The advantages provided by this product are the compatibility mentioned, a usable programming environment, and an extended command list. Oh, yes, your programs will naturally run much, much faster as well.

The first thing you can't help but notice is that the text editor only runs in medium or high resolution modes. So, for applications



HiSoft Basic: a bit of an oddity, but a useful adjunct to Atari Basic

that run in low resolution you'll have to use the SCREEN 0 command at the start and SCREEN 1 at the end.

The editor itself is very spartan looking, and its features reflect that. Lines can be deleted or inserted and blocks of lines shuffled around and deleted. The commands are all available from the keyboard and are similar to those used in *Wordstar*. It's all very simple to use but doesn't match *GFA Basic's*, or the complexities of *Fast Basic* either.

The graphics commands are just the same as Atari Basic's with one or two important additions. POINT reads the colour of a specified pixel, and SCREEN is used for selecting the screen mode although you should note that only TOS or TTP programs should use this command as the GEM AES and VDI don't like screen mode changes from within a program. Not many additions there, I'm sure you'll agree. There are however more. A lot of functions and commands are available on the disc as machine code routines, contained within libraries. You must use the LIBRARY command and the library name (ie LIBRARY XBIOS) to access those particular functions, which are then loaded off the disk and incorporated into your compiled program. While this is a good idea in theory, it should after all mean that your programs are compiled more efficiently, in practice it results in quite a messy situation.

The actual libraries are the BIOS (Basic Input/Output), XBIOS (Extended BIOS), GEMDOS (the operating system), GEMVDI (Virtual Device Interface) and the GEMAES (Application Environment Services). More than any other version of Basic, HiSoft gives you access to these routines within the ST. While the manual explains many of these functions well or adequately, some of the explanations are unclear to say the least. There's lots of good stuff here but expect hard work getting at it.

Having seen that Atari Basic supported few commands for structured programs, HiSoft have certainly made an effort in this department with procedures, DO..LOOP, REPEAT..END REPEAT, and WHILE..WEND. What gives HiSoft Basic the thumbs up over the others here is that the DO..LOOP construct can have WHILE and UNTIL added to the DO, and WEND, WHILE and UNTIL at the bottom end. Undeniably flexible.

Probably Atari Basic's second biggest failing is that there are no commands to control the GEM interface. HiSoft have made improvements in this direction as well with MOUSAE, and a plethora of window commands. Other support can be found in the libraries of course.

#### Conclusions

Both *GFA Basic* and *Fast Basic* are very good implementations of the language. If you have half a mind to develop 68000 machine code programs as well, then your best bet is *Fast Basic* as it contains an inbuilt assembler. The *Fast Basic* manual is generally better than that supplied with *GFA Basic* (which was translated from German after all) but despite these two points I would heartily recommend *GFA Basic* instead, and it should be noted that there is a rather good compiler for the languages as well.

HiSoft Basic is an oddity. I wouldn't recommend it over either of the two major Basics because I don't particuarly like the way it works. I would say it is worthwhile for anyone who is a committed Atari Basic programmer to purchase HiSoft Basic because of the speed increase and more

friendly environment.

As far as the new version of *Atari Basic* is concerned, I'm afraid we can write that off already.

**Duncan Evans** 

## IT'S THE

lan Rook gives the once over to Amstrads eagerly awaited successor to the best selling PCW 8256, imaginitively named the PCW 9512.

he Amstrad PCW was code-named Joyce, after Alan Sugar's secretary Joyce Caley. The machine was designed for secretaries not to replace them. All that would be ousted was the Olympia typewriter which hid the waists of the nations typists. Now they are masked up to the designer spectacles by the VDU of the PCW 8256. Soon they will have to find some cushions to see over the top of the new PCW 9512.

It is amazing just how successful the PCW has been. The reception desk of my local Amiga software house is graced with a PCW; many of the major magazines and newspapers have their text crafted on Amstrads. Even *Popular* relies on a crowd of Joyces to put the words on your page. You'd think that there was not much scope for improvement.

The PCW is two years old (Happy Birthday to you, Happy Birthday to you - blow out the candles) at this years PCW show. You don't get Ford sticking with the same Escort for that long and so the boys from Brentwood (home of Amstrad, just the wrong side of the M25 and too near Southend to pass itself off as civilization) has wheeled out a new model. Unlike Ford the old Joyce stays in production but having seen the development costs amortised the price drops to £299 plus VAT. The new machine is Joyce 3. Deduction reveals the Joyce 2 to be the PCW 8512. A machine which looked like an 8256 but boasted 512K RAM and a second 720K disk drive. This also has had its price pruned; to £399 plus VAT. Logic and a sense of fair play dictating that at £499 plus VAT the PCW 9512 with better bits bolted is a step above that.

#### **Pretty**

The PCW 9512 is the prettiest Amstrad machine ever. At first glance it appears to be a PC 1512, the colour is the same. But this is a deception which is laid bare by a three inch disk drive. Then you notice the other differences between the PC case and the new PCW. The monitor does not tilt, but it looks smart with 8512 holes for ventilation. The back of the monitor is better styled, and the top slopes sharply. This means that the printer will no longer fit on top of the machine but it can go either side of the main unit. Many people found that having the position of the PCW 8256 printer dictated by a short lead was a limitation. The screen is no longer green, white is considered more exectuve. Despite Amstrad's insistence that the screen is paper white the text is white on a black background, not inverted as on a Mac or ZX81.

I am assured that the workings of the keyboard are identical to those on the 8256. which in turn is the same as the 1512. This only goes to show what a different good keycaps make. The PCW 8256 felt cramped, I often hit keys by mistake. On the 9512 things are better spaced, the shift keys in particular are easier to get at. The large area below the spacebar shows some concern about ergonomics. Anyone who is used to an Amstrad PC will feel at home with fingers on Joyce 3, but if you are used to an earlier PCW things get confusing. The functional keys have been moved from between the QWERTY section and the numeric pad to the left where they masquerade as PC function keys.

#### **Formidable**

The 720K drive has usurped the 180K drive fitted to the elder sister. This means that like the 8256 the 9512 is a single drive machine and like the sibling it can be upgraded with the addition of a second drive, but not the same unit. A Joyce 3 with dual drives and nigh on 1.5 megabytes of disk storage is a formidable machine.

Upwards disk compatibility is maintained, so the 9512 will read 180K disks but cannot write to them, and 720K disks from the 8512 are indistinguishable by their sameness. The disks are Amstrad standard 3inch, no-one else uses these (OK, so the Tatung Einstein uses them but no-one uses a Tatung Einstein, consequently only Amstrad users buy 3inch disks). Suffice to say that Amstrad have built a standard by being bigger, and like the standards IBM establish in the same manner it's not the best but it works. Thanks to the widespread use of Amstrad disks the price has fallen to £2.99 (only twice the price of an Amiga style 3.5inch disk) from the quite ridiculous £5.

Malcolm Miller and his cronies in the Amstrad marketing department have never been modest about the abilities of the Amstrad machines, so having exhausted the terms "Near letter quality" on the PCW 8256 printer and "letter quality" on the new LQ 3500 they have been forced to call the daisywheel printer "perfect letter quality" Exaggeration apart the 9512 printer is very good, it may not be the much rumoured 24 pin dox matrix mechanism I expected but it is not as slow as the other sub £1,000 daisywheels of my acquaintance, at about 20 characters per second. The carriage is very wide, and will easily take a sheet of A4 sideways. Unfortunately the printer is very big, and not really in keeping with the sleek lines of the system unit. The size is essential for using the 9512 with a spreadsheet. On the 8256 you could condense the type, try that with a daisywheel and you end up with a mess.

Both print wheels and ribbons are freely available. The wheels and codes accepted by the printer conform to Diablo 630 protocols, the daisywheel equivalent of Epson compatible.

#### **Expensive**

There are some people who will want a faster printer, graphics or both. For them the PCW 9512 offers a centronics parallel port. There is no need for the expensive CPS 8256 interface if you do not want to attach a modem. If you do need a serial port then the interface will fit but hangs off the back like an afterthought. The 9512 is more of a typewriter replacement than the other Joyces so it is unlikely that many people will buy CPS's.

There is quite a price difference between the 8512 and 9512, particularly when you realise that it is the more expensive machine which has fewer disk drives. The price hike is justified by the inclusion of LocoScript 2, the improved wordprocessor from Locomotive Systems in Dorking. LocoScript 2 is sold separately at £20, but the 9512 also comes with LocoSpell and LocoMail. These are sold at £40 each and so the three justify the extra cost of the 9512 in themselves. I'd argue that 'Mail and 'Spell have always been disproportionately overpriced.

To drive the new printer, and any of the centronics printers you are likely to hang off the back, LocoScript 2 has a number of printer drivers. The manual suggests that you will be able to buy printer drivers for additional daisywheels and printers. I'll believe that when I see them on sale. LocoScript 2 offers 448 characters which can be printed on a PCW 8256 dot matrix printer. There is no way you will be able to find another printer or combination of daisywheels which can reproduce them all. You cannot attach an 8256 dot-matrix printer to a 9512, they are very different beasts.

Problems of printer compatibility are one of the reasons why the complete system approach of the PCW works so well. Most people will only use the Amstrad supplied printer and daisywheels with the same basic character set. I'd argue that if you really need to do a lot of printer and typeface swapping then you have bought the wrong machine. The dot matrix output of the other PCW's is not bad and much more flexible.

## NEW STYLE

#### Repetitive

LocoScript is easy to use, you can sit down and quickly produce letters with a little help from the manual. This means that most of the users I've come across learn by doing and so miss out on loads of LocoScript's features. It is worth taking some time to learn about start-of-day disks, which reduce the time it takes to get going when beginning a session. Layouts (despite being very different from LocoScript 1 layouts) simplify the process of getting the page to look right. Blocks and Paste buffers speed up the typing of repetitive documents. If time is money then reading the manual is an investment.

LocoMail and LocoSpell help increase the value of the system. The dictionary for LocoSpell is English, based on Chambers 20th Century Dictionary as used by Scrabble players. Checking is run from inside LocoScript, which speeds up the process, suggestions are offered for incorrectly spelt words and the vocabulary can be increased through the addition of user dictionaries. The best reason for upgrading a PCW 8256 was to use the LocoSpell lexicon. The 9512 is already upgraded.

#### Useful

LocoMail is one of those programs which a few people will find extremely useful and the rest won't touch. Mail merging is complicated. It took me nearly a week to get what I wanted from MailMerge for WordStar. The lessons of time have meant that Locomotive learnt to make LocoMail easier to use than that but it will still take a couple of dry runs to get what you want.

It takes a programmer to stretch Loco-Mail, there are options to test a data file for things like outstanding balances and then insert different texts ranging from "Thank uou for your prompt payment" through "this maount is now outstanding" and up to "Pay up today or we send da Boyz 'round". You choose the text, but the meaning is the same. Most LocoMail users will probably find the nuances of < > and truth tests too confusing. Programming the software is not my greatest reservation, it is the life of the printer. You could easily store enough on a 720K disk to mail over 3,000 people with customised versions of the same letter. The PCW printer would have to run for days and nights to get through that lot, only stopping for a new ribbon. This kind of hammering is more than a cheap printer should be ex-



pected to take. It is also a very long time to wait for the output. You really do need a faster and more robust printer for this kind of task. There is a tractor unit which removes the difficulty of having to feed in each sheet but no single sheet hopper, a device which would make short mailing runs possible on standard company notepaper.

All Amstrad PCW's are supplied with CP/M+. Being an old operating system there is plenty of good software, and it is amazing how many companies have benefitted from transferring forgotten products to 3 inch disks. There has even proved to be a market for rival wordprocessors. Arnor have scored quite a hit with Protext. This runs perfectly on a 9512, although a modicum of printer installation is advisable.

CP/M+ has the very useful ability to think of one disk drive as both A and B, swapping the definitions while you swap disks. The PCW has a 368K RAM Disk so you could copy files one at a time, but a whole floppy needs the features of CP/M+.

As anyone who bought a Jupiter Ace will tell you, no machine is complete without a BASIC interpreter. The language is ideal for running up the odd text processing program or complete accounts system. The PCW is supplied with a wonderful Basic. Mallard Basic was written by Locomotive software to be better than and compatible with Microsoft Basic. Mallard is fast and has a high level of mathematical precision. But it does not have any graphics of its own. You can use add-on graphics, either in the form of the Amstrad supplied GSX routines which are a nightmare to use, or Ex-Basic from Nabitichi in Liverpool. Being a monochrome machine graphics aren't exactly the PCW's long suit. Neither is the sound, a Spectrum-like beep being the best it can muster. So Mallard is right for the PCW. What is very wrong is the inclusion of Logo, a mickey mouse language if ever I saw one.

Anyone who thinks a program which reads

either needs their head examining or is a teacher. Still it looks good in the list of bundled software and the instructions help fill the manual.

The manual is large, 624 pages and unlike early PCW manuals is bound like a book. This means it will not lie flat. Perhaps this is another way of generating revenue, because after a few weeks of use with a paperweight holding open the key pages so that you can learn how to work headers and footers. The pages make a bid for freedom. Soon the book becomes very loose leaf!

The binding apart Amstrad and Locomotive have really learned from the stick they took over the earlier manual. The new book is far better illustrated with diagrams showing what happens on the screen and which key to press. I suspect that users who upgrade from an 8256 will find the detail of the new manual tedious, but they should spare a thought for new users. We were all learner drivers once.

The PCW 9512 is the best typewriter replacement ever. It is also an OK CP/M+computer. But if you want a bit of both the 8512 probably represents better value for money. LocoScript 2 is a vast improvement on the original LocoScript, especially when you take into account the inclusion of LocoScpell. Anyone who had reservations about the print quality of the 8256 will now be swayed. After hours there are a host of games, including the best 8 bit version of Starglider. The unanswered question is why no other computer manufacturer has brought out a machine with which to compete.

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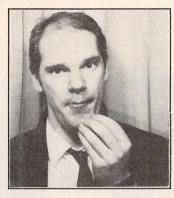
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CAMBRIDGE COMPUTER

#### PEEK & POKE



with Kenn Garroch

AS far as I know, you can import anything you like from the US and all you have to pay is VAT and the p&p. This certainly applies if the goods are not for resale. However, I syspect that things may get a little more complex if you want to sell the goods you're importing.

A Mega byte, reputedly 1

A Mega byte, reputedly 1 million bytes, is actually 1048576 bytes or 2<sup>20</sup> alternatively it is 1k times 1k or 1024 × 1024 i.e. 1048576.

#### **Amiga BB**

Tony Jackson, of Bexley Kent, writes:

I intend to open a bulletin board running on my Amiga 1000 and I hope to offer (for a closed membership fee of £5-10) as much public domain software as I can lay my hands on. Unfortunately the membership fee is to cover the cost of importing PD software from the US. To reduce costs. I thought I would offer PD software for other machines, is this possible? I know I can't run it but is it possible to upload and download software with the Amiga?

Also Amiga peripherals are much more expensive in the UK than they are in the US. Could you tell me what it entails in the way of import tax and VAT etc to import both hardware and software?

P.S. How many bytes are there in 1 Mega Byte?

If you have an ST available then transferring files between the machines is simply a matter of hooking up an RS232 interface, and using a bit of terminal software at either end. As far as I know, you will not be able to read ST disks (or any other disks, beside Amiga, for that matter). What you need is a set protocol, say Xmodem, to make sure all of the files are compatible with other systems that will be accessing the BB. If the PD programs can be obtained in ASCII format then there should be no problems whatsoever in transferring them between machines. You might try hooking up to an ST BB and downloading some software to see how it goes?

#### Eye of a needle

Alan S Wolstencroft, of Knutsford, Cheshire, writes:

Ref. PCW of 28th August "Tied up with ribbons", I have found, using a Star DP510, that for some ribbons, the eyelets are so flat that they sometimes slip through the toggle so that the tape is run to the end and is scotched and printing stops, In such case the mechanical action can be rendered more positive by carefull insertion into each eyelet of a small brass paper clip of the bifurcated variety, suitably shortened with the ends folded in.

Concerning the user maintainance or printers, I find that it is possible to remove all superficial dust but there is little guidence on the removal of dust accumulating in the least accessible placeswhere, one supposes, it could cause real problems. Also I am uncertain as to the correct mode of lubrication, if any, of the round polished steel bar on which the printing head is carried.

Do you think PCW could publish something in the way of guidelines on printer maintenance?

Thanks for the tip, I use 3in1 (sorry about the ad) oil on the bar in my printer which seems to work admirably. Just drip a little on when it gets too dry or begins to rattle. I suspect that the best thing is to use cotton buds (whups again) soaked in meths to get at the nooks and crannies but, as you say, there are some parts that are pretty well inaccesible without dissecting the printer. The best thing to do is keep the lid

shut as much as possible and, if you use it professionally, get a maintenance contract.

#### Chalk and cheese

Stephen Chance, of Stockwell, London, writes:

Re 'Cheese Tasting Session' in Sept 4th issue.

I have only the disk version of Cheese, but hopefully the tape version is similar enough for the following information to be of use.

The bit map, colour RAM, and screen RAM are saved by Cheese as a single program file which loads from \$8000 to \$D000. The file is so large because, with vertical scrolling, Cheese creates a picture about half as big again as the actual hires screen. The main chunk of the bitmap is at \$8000, the screen RAM at \$C200, and the colour RAM at \$C800. Also, the background colour, to be poked into \$D021, is at \$CFFD.

Unfortunately, to get a use-

ful picture out of all of this, everthing has to be moved; with the bitmap at \$8000, half of it is obscured from the VIC chip by the character generator ROM Image; \$C200 is the midpoint of a text screen rather than the start address of one, and of course the colour RAM has to be relocated to \$D800.

I find that the most convenient solution is to switch to Bank 3 (\$C000 \$FFFF), placing the bitmap at \$E000, and screen RAM at \$CC00. All this takes minutes in Basic, but the following machine code routine wil accomplish it in the twinkling of an eye.

To use, load a cheese file into memory i.e. LOAD "A.CHE",8,1 from disk or LOAD "",1,1 from tape, load and run the program and call SYS 32508. To return to normal call SYS 32571.

Actually, I wrote the program in the hope of a tenner from 'Bytes and Pieces' but you stole my thunder.

Sorry about that, I'll have a word with the Editor and see what can be done.

continued on page 25 ▶

The Amiga 1000: software is much cheaper in the US





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24/POPULAR COMPUTING WEEKLY

#### STicky, mouse

John Grimaldi, of Thornton Heath, London, writes:

I have had my ST for some months now and have just begun to experience problems with the Mouse. It has started to become very innaccurate, and has a sort of lumpy feel, I have an idea that it may need cleaning but I don't want to take it apart for reasons of warranty. Is this a common problem and how do I solve it?

Turn the mouse over and you will see a section with two arrows on it. Push the section in the direction indicated and it will come off. Don't worry about it: that's what it's meant to do. Remove the ball and give it a wipe.

Next, peep inside and you will see three rollers, one for the x direction, one for the y direction, and one to keep things steady. These rollers should be silvery coloured, if they're not then they need cleaning.

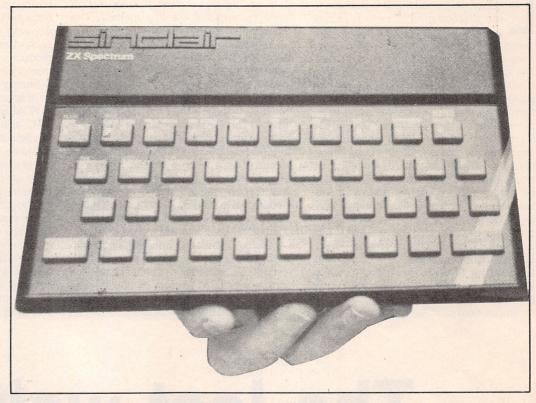
The best way to remove the gunge is to scrape the rollers with a screwdriver or knife until they are gleaming again. Polish up with a bit of meths or lighter fuel if you like; but don't get it on the ball or the plastic bits, because it isn't at all good for them in the longer term. Try not to get too much gunge inside the mouse as this will eventually muck up the whole of the works.

If you clean the beastie once a month or so, you shouldn't have too many problems. If the mouse begins to squeak then you have got troubles, the best solution for which is a cage.

### **Character** assassination

Stephen Howlett, of Morriston, Swansea, writes:

Is it possible to change the Spectrum's character set? I have designed a new set of numbers and letters using UDGs and I can change the Spectrum's to mine. The trouble is that I



Some would say that the Spectrum's character remains the same whatever you do to it ...

can only use 23 UDGs so I hope you can help.

In the system variables there is a pointer to the character set which normally points to the ROM definitions. Change this to point to RAM, and the whole set can be redefined. Locations 23606 (low byte) and 23607 (high byte) hold the address 256 less than the start of the actual definitions. The first 32 characters (0-31) are control codes and therefore do not have shape definitions so, 8\*32=256 i.e. the gap before the first character, space (32). Characters are defined on an 8×8 matrix of dots e.g.

Would define the 1 character shape. The following program demonstrates how this can be done from Basic: it copies the character set from Rom to RAM and redefines part of the A definition.

10 CLEAR 39999 20 PRINT "AAAAAA" 30 PRINT "CHARS NOW AT" 40 PRINT PEEK(23606), PEEK(23607) PEEK(23607)\*256
60 FOR T=0 TO 127\*8
70 POKE 4000+T, PEEK(15616
+T),
80 NEXT T
90 POKE 23607,INT ((4000
-256)/256)
100 POKE 23606,4000-256\*INT (4000/256)
110 PRINT "REDEFINE PART OF A"
120 POKE 39744+(8\*65),255
130 PRINT "AAAAAA"

50 PRINT "I.E.", PEEK (23606)+

#### **RS232**

D P Berkley, of York Electronic Research, The Fishergate Centre, 4 Fishergate, Yorks, writes:

I am writing in reply to Cristopher Adams' letter in the August issue of PCW concerning problems encountered in connecting a ZX-81 to a Brother printer.

The Brother range of printers support both hardware handshaking and X-on Xoff protocol, but unfortunately

these mutually exclusive formats have been implemented in such a way as to prevent communication if the printer is not given a CTS signal, which requires modification to the D connector wiring, in order to overcome this problem the following connections should be made: Pin 2 TX printer --> controller Pin 3 RX controller --> printer

Pin 7 OV i.e. ground
Pin 20 RTS o/p low when
printer is busy
pins 4, 5, 6, 8 should be
connected together.

Y.E.R. will provide a cable specially wired for Brother printers with our Commodore C64/C128/Plus 4 RS232 interface for no extra cost. If any readers have difficulty in interfacing Commodore computers to Brother RS232 printers we would be happy to discuss technical problems. Phone 0904 610722.

ATa

Is there anything about your computer you don't understand, and which everyone else seems to take for granted? Whatever your problem Peek it to Kenn Garroch and every week he will Poke back as many answers as he can. The address is Peek & Poke, PCW, 3rd Floor, Greencoat House, Francis Street, London SW1P 1DG.

## **PROGRAMMING**

ast week I mentioned that it is possible to use a sound chip to synthesize real sounds using amplitude modulation, changing the value in the volume register according to the waveform to be produced. The sounds produced were defined using sine synthesis, ie combinations of sine waves. Wave forms can also be defined from programming, some by using sampling devices known as ADCs (Analogue to Digital Converters). An ADC measures the amplitude or volume of a waveform at specific intervals returns the values as binary numbers on a data bus. These can be read into the computer and used with the sound chip or a DAC (Digital to Analogue Converter) to reproduce them. Sampled sounds can also be modified with computer programs to produce filters, echos, frequency changes etc. The crucial factor about ADCs is the speed at which they can convert the incoming waveform. For example, take a sine wave of 440Hz, if its amplitude was measured every second, 0-15 so the signal must be reduced 16 times to output it via this method. This reduces the quality, but an eight bit DAC will reproduce the sound, more or less, at the quality at which it was sampled.

An eight bit DAC simply converts values form 0-255 into voltages with the same increment, i.e. if the output is to vary between 0 and 5V then the DAC will split this into 256 steps or units of 0.02V.

There are a number of commercial ADC/ DAC units available for home micros, generally used for speech synthesis. They can record sounds which are stored in memory, and then reproduce them in normal or modified form (see ST Update September--November 1987 for a circuit that is easily adapted to any micro with an i/o port).

ADC/DAC systems are used along with special speech chips because of the amount of information contained in the spoken word. A speech synthesis chip normally uses phonemes, or parts of word sounds, to create its vocabulary. All words

having each word available in memory because they take up so much less space. Consider a sampled word that lasts half a second sampling at 40kHz into eight bits produces 20000 bytes, quite a lot of memory even by today's standards.

Storing phonemes themselves takes up a lot of space, the thing is that the data is held in ROM is a special chip that includes the DAC and all of the gear necessary to reproduce the sound. All the programmer has to do is select the required sequence of phonemes to produce the desired word. Most words will split into less than 5 or 6 phonemes so the computer is not handling very much data.

The main drawback with speech synthesis chips is that they tend to be rather roboty and usually have American accents - the BBC micro speech chip is an exception in that it uses a British news reader as its basis. The main problem with phonemes is that they don't convert from text to sound, as spelling is inconsistent.

All in all, there is a lot that can be done

with sounds and computers. It is difficult to

cover it all in a few articles. Any detailed

description has to be machine specific

since there is no standardisation. I have

tried to give an overall view.

## The last waltz

In the fourth and last part of his series on computer sound, Kenn Garroch looks at analogue to digital convectors and speech.

the resulting set of numbers would be meaningless. Taking samples every 2.3ms i.e. 440 times a second is better but they will not look or sound like a sine wave.

To gain the best result, the sampling frequency must be at least twice the frequency being sampled e.g. 440Hz needs to be sampled at at least 880Hz or every 1.1mS to produce a result that at least represents the correct frequency on playback, ideally, higher sampling frequencies than this are desirable, and when using ADCs to sample sounds that can be heard i.e. in the range 20-20kHz, they must do a conversion at least once every 25µs. This should cover all the audible frequencies but will cause most computers and ADCs some problems. There are, however, ADCs that will operate at these frequencies and reproduce a respectable result.

Translating the sounds back from numerical to audible form can be done either with a sound chip as described before, or with a DAC which will produce a far superior result. Since eight bits is a convenient number format for computers, most ADCs quantify the amplitude of a sampled signal into values from 0-255 which can be read directly into a computer user port and stored quite conveniently in memory. Most sound chips only allow volume values from

can be broken down into sections, each of which is a distinctive sound, and can be recombined in different ways to produce reasonably intelligible speech. These phonemes (or, more accurately, allophones) are much more suited to speech synthesis than

100 REM SYS 32508 TO VIEW CHEESE FILE 110 REM SYS 32571 TO VIEW TEXT 120 POKE 55,251:POKE 56,126:CLR

130 A=32508:B=200 140 FORZ=0TO21:C=0:FORY=0TO11

140 PORZEGIOZI CE-B-FORT-BIOII 150 READD: CEC+D:IF D<256 THEN POKEA,D 160 A=A+1:NEXT 170 READD: IFC<>D THEN GOSUB190 180 B=B+10:NEXT:END

PRINT"ERROR IN LINE"B: RETURN

180 B=B+10-MEXI-END 190 PRINT"ERROR IN LINE"B:RETURN 200 DATA 32.9,127.32,105,127,32,155,127,32,205,127,1110 210 DATA 96.173,2,221.9,3,141.2,221,173,17,208,1266 220 DATA 9.32,141,17,208,173,0,221,41,252,141,0,1235 230 DATA 221,173,22,208,9,16,141,22,208,169,56,141,1386 240 DATA 24,208,173,33,208,141,255,127,173,253,207,141,1943 250 DATA 33,208,96,173,2,221,9,3,141,2,221,173,1282 260 DATA 17,208,41,223,141,17,208,173,0,221,41,252,1542 270 DATA 9,3,141,0,221,173,22,208,41,239,141,22,1220 280 DATA 208,169,21,141,24,208,173,255,127,141,33,208,1708 290 DATA 253,169,0,133,251,169,128,133,252,169,0,133,1633 300 DATA 253,169,224,133,254,160,0,177,251,145,253,165,2184 310 DATA 253,201,63,208,7,165,254,201,255,208,1,96,1912 320 DATA 230,251,208,2,230,252,230,253,208,2,230,254,2350 330 DATA 76,123,127,169,0,133,251,169,194,133,252,169,1796 340 DATA 0,133,253,169,204,133,251,169,194,133,252,169,1796 340 DATA 0,133,253,169,204,133,254,160,0,177,251,145,1879 350 DATA 253,165,253,201,232,208,7,165,254,201,207,208,2354 360 DATA 1,96,230,251,208,2,230,252,230,253,208,2,1963 370 DATA 252,169,0,133,253,169,216,133,251,169,206,133,1915 380 DATA 252,169,0,133,253,169,216,133,254,160,0,177,1916 390 DATA 251,145,253,165,253,201,255,208,7,165,254,201,2358 400 DATA 219,208,1,96,230,251,208,2,230,252,230,253,230,253,230

400 DATA 219,208,1,96,230,251,208,2,230,252,230,253,2180 410 DATA 208,2,230,254,76,223,127,234,85,256,256,256,2207

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## PROGRAMMING: AMSTRAD CPC

#### Newsmaker

Simon T Goodwin

10 REM \* 20 REM \*\*\* NEWSMAKER Program I 30 REM \*\*\* ST Goodwin August 1987 40 REM \* 50 REM 60 ON ERROR GOTO 4720 65 ON BREAK GOSUB 4730 80 SYMBOL AFTER 32 90 MEMORY 37999 100 MODE 2 110 LOAD "pager": CALL 38000 120 | BANK, 5: | MOVE, 49152, 16384, 16384: | BAN K, 0 130 | BANK, 6: | MOVE, 49152, 16384, 16384: | BAN K, 0 140 | BANK, 7: | MOVE, 49152, 16384, 16384: | BAN K. 0 150 (BANK. 0 160 MODE 2: PAPER 0: PEN 1: BORDER 13: INK 0 ,26: INK 1,0 170 : 340 ON a% GOSUB 390,1380,2430,2740,3460, 180 : 3960 190 DEFINT a-z:DIM b(12),cf(80,2):FOR a= 350 WEND 0 TO 6:b(a\*2)=2^(6-a):NEXT 200 storex=100:storey=100:dense=5:scrn=1 360 END 370 : 210 z=20000:pas=25000 220: 390 (CUT, 49152+160, z, 20, 100 230 : 400 :FWINDOW, 55457, 13, 90, 0 240 WHILE 1 410 PLOT 10,360:60SUB 4590 250 eror=0 260 PEN 1

esktop publishing involves the design, manipulation and printing of a page of text and graphics. Posters, adverts or newsletters can be produced with ease and stored for future use. The computer stores the page in memory (one page takes 51K) and the user can work on one third of the page at any one time. Switching between the three parts of the page is quick and easy.

To get the program up and running you must type in two programs. Program I is Basic, while. Program II is a machine code listing. Run Program II first. This pokes in the machine code data. If errors are found a message will be displayed. If the data has been typed in correctly a file "pager.bin" will be saved onto the disc. Program II can then be deleted. Running Program I loads the machine code and enters the main program. Remember this program is 6128 only. It may run on an expanded 464/664 but the commands prefixed by a ":" may need to be altered.

Newsmaker is menu driven throughout. To move the pointer use the cursor keys. The Copy keys selects an option from the menu. Pressing the Esc key returns to the main menu. The main menu headings are Text, Graphics, Banner, Files, Print and Miscellaneous and are displayed at the top of the screen.

#### Text

Upon selecting this option you are greeted with three options: Load File, Enter Text and Exit. (An exit option is included on all sub-menus. Selecting it returns to the main menu). The Load File option can be used on word-processor files (Protext Program files and Mini Office II files work) or ordinary ascii files. Move the cursor to the position you want the text to appear at and press Copy. Then type the name of the program. If you

-(n\*16):PRINT as;:NEXT:TAGOFF

450 !PASTE, 49152+160, z, 20, 100

460 IF a%=2 THEN GOSUB 520

470 IF a%=1 THEN GOSUB 740

480 IF a%=3 THEN RETURN

490 RETURN

500 :

510:

load text into a shape (say as triangle) it will fill it. Whenever the program runs out of space it displays an overflow menu. Then you can either return to the menu or chose another position to start printing more text. The Enter Text option lets you type text directly on screen. The Cursor keys and the Delete key can be used to move the cursor. Pressing Clr returns to the main menu.

#### Graphics

This is perhaps the most rewarding way of using this program. A number of options are available: Dot mode, Line mode, Fill, Spray, Cut and Paste. The Dot and Spray modes can be used to write or erase (type E or W when the menu appears). Pressing Copy produces either a dot or a spray pattern depending on which option you use. Line mode surprisingly enough allows lines to be drawn. Use cursors and Copy to set the location of one end of the line, then do the same for the other end of the line. To use the Fill option you must already have moved the cursor to the required position. Be careful here as one false move can ruin your designs. The Cut and Paste options allow you to move chunks of graphics and text from one screen location to another. To Cut you must set the position, width and depth of the area to be cut using the Cursors and Copy. The Paste option allows you to display the graphics you have cut anywhere on the screen. You must set the position to paste, again using Cursors and Copy. You can even move text from one of the three screens to another.

As this is a three week listing, more instructions are given next week. Also, if you'd like a copy of Newsmaker on disc then send £7.00 to 41 Fountains Drive, Acklam, Middlesborough, Cleveland T55

420 RESTORE 4660: !UPRINT, 20, 346, "Text" 430 TAG:FOR n=1 TO 3:READ a\$:MOVE 20,330 440 a%=0: : MENU, 3, 0, 0, 1, 1, 20, 314, @a%

520 G05HB 1030 530 rt=1:60SUB 2660:rt=0:FOR n=1 10 255: CALL &BB1B: NEXT 540 mk=1:stx=x:sty=y:LOCATE x,y:CALL &BB 550 WHILE 1 560 a\$=1NKEY\$ 570 IF A\$=CHR\$(127) THEN GOSUB 690:6010 600 580 IF x=80 AND y=25 THEN 600 590 IF a\$<>"" THEN IF ASC(a\$)<240 THEN LOCATE x, y: PRINT a\$;: x=X+1 600 IF x=80 AND y<25 THEN cf(mk,1)=x:cf( mk, 2) = y:mk = mk + 1: x = stx: y = y + 1610 IF a = CHR = (13) AND y < 25 THEN cf (mk, 1 )=x:cf(mk,2)=y:mk=mk+1:x=stx:y=y+1:LOCAT E X, Y 620 IF a\$=CHR\$(240) AND y>sty THEN PRINT

CHR\$(11);:y=y-1

330 a%=0: IMENU, 6, 1, 1, 0, 0, 28, 390, @a%

280 LOCATE 1,1:PRINT SPACE\$(80)

290 LOCATE 1,2:PRINT SPACE\$(80)

90: READ as: PRINT as; : NEXT: TAGOFF

300 TAG:FOR n=30 TO 600 STEP 96:MOVE n,3

320 PLOT 3,368:DRAWR 632,0:DRAWR 0,28:DR

270 RESTORE 4650

310 PLOT -5,-5,1

AWR -632,0:DRAWR 0,-28

## PROGRAMMING: AMSTRAD CPC

at the state of th		
630 IF a\$=CHR\$(241) AND y<25 THEN PRINT	1030 FOR n=1 TO 255: CALL %BB1B: NEXT: 60SU	10 REM
CHR\$(10);:y=y+1	B 2340	20 REM - Newsmaker Program II -
640 IF a\$=CHR\$(242) THEN GOSUB 1000	1040 WINDOW 1,80,1,25	30 REM - By Simon.T.Goodwin 1987 -
650 IF a\$=CHR\$(243) AND x<80 THEN PRINT	1050 LOCATE 15,5:PRINT "MOVE CURSOR AND	50 REM
CHR\$(9);:x=x+1:IF x=80 AND y<25 THEN x=5		60 MEMORY 37999
tx:y=y+1:LOCATE stx,y 660 IF mk=B0 THEN CALL &BBB4:RETURN	1060 LOCATE 15,6:PRINT "LOCATE TEXT."	70 linenumber=210:address=38000
	1070 LOCATE 15,8:PRINT "Press a key"	80 FOR n=1 TO 161
670 IF a\$=CHR\$(&10) THEN CALL &BBB4:RETU RN		90 count=0
680 WEND	1090   PASTE, 49152+160+13, z, 40, 100	100 FOR i=0 TO 7
690 IF x=stx AND y=sty THEN RETURN	1100 x=storex:y=storey:60SUB 4390:storex	110 READ a\$:POKE address,VAL("&"+a\$)
	=x:storey=y 1110 RETURN	120 address=address+1
THEN x=cf(mk-1,1)-1:y=cf(mk-1,2):mk=mk-1		130 count=count+VAL("%"+a\$)
:LOCATE x,y:PRINT CHR\$(16);CHR\$(B);:ELSE		140 NEXT i
x=x-1	1140 (CUT,55457,z,42,60	150 READ check\$:check=VAL("&"+check\$)
710 LOCATE X,Y:RETURN	1150 FWINDOW, 55457, 40, 56, 0: MOVE 10, 360:	160 IF count⇔check THEN PRINT "Error in
720 :	GOSUB 4600: WINDOW 4,40,4,8	line";linenumber:END
730 :	1160 ex=0	170 linenumber=linenumber+10
740 ex=0:60SUB 1030:rt=1:60SUB 2660:rt=0		180 NEXT n
750 tx=x:ty=y:LOCATE tx,ty	end the rest of the text to another pla	190 REM
	ce ":e\$	200 SAVE "pager",b,38000,1288
770   CUT, 49152+160, z, 42, 60:   FWINDOW, 5545		210 DATA 01,7A,94,21,E0,94,CD,D1,442
	1190 IF e\$="e" THEN ex=1:CLOSEIN:WINDOW	220 DATA BC,C9,A0,94,C3,75,95,C3,549
	1,80,1,25: (PASTE,55457, z,42,60: RETURN	230 DATA 9F,95,C3,DF,95,C3,C9,95,58C
&BB1B: NEXT	1200 IF e\$<>"s" THEN 1170	240 DATA C3,6D,96,C3,10,96,C3,C3,4B5
790 INPUT "Filename ",f\$	1210   PASTE, 55457, z, 42, 60	250 DATA 96,C3,2E,97,C3,F5,98,C3,531
800 IF fs="" OR LEN(fs)>8 THEN 790	1220 GUSUB 1030	260 DATA FC, 98, C3, 0F, 95, C3, 11, 99, 468
810   PASTE, 49152+160, z, 42, 60: WINDOW 1,80	1230 rt=1:60SUB 2660:rt=0	270 DATA 43,55,D4,50,41,53,54,C5,369
,1,25	1240 tx=x:ty=y:LOCATE tx,ty	280 DATA 54,43,4F,4F,52,C4,47,43,2D5
820 mkr=0:OPENIN(f\$)	1250 mkr=0	290 DATA 4F, 4F, 52, C4, 45, 40, 50, 48, 2DE
830 WHILE NOT (EOF)	1260 x2=(x*8)-8:y2=((25-y)*16)+16:stx=x2	300 DATA 41,53,47,5A,C5,55,50,52,2F3
840 LINE INPUT #9,a\$(1)	1270 RETURN	310 DATA 49,4E,D4,44,50,52,49,4E,2EB
850 FOR n=1 TO LEN(a\$(1))	1280 :	320 DAFA D4,40,45,4E,D5,42,41,4E,35A
860 IF ASC(MID\$(a\$(1),n,1))=0 THEN PRINT		330 DATA CB,4D,4F,56,C5,46,57,49,368 340 DATA 4E,44,4F,D7,4C,4F,41,C4,358
CHR\$(7):x=tx:y=y+1:x2=stx:y2=y2-16:GOSU		350 DATA 00,00,00,00,00,00,00,00,0
B 1330: IF df=1 THEN GOSUB 1140: ELSE IF y		360 DATA 00,00,00,00,00,00,00,00,0
	1320 NEXT: RETURN	370 DATA 00,00,00,00,00,00,00,00,00
870 LOCATE x,y:PRINT MID\$(a\$(1),n,1);	1330 df=0:FUR tgh=y2 2 10 y2 18 5ftr 2 1340 IF TEST( x2+4,tgh) <>0 1HEN df=1	380 DATA 00,00,00,00,00,00,00,00,0
880 x=x+1:x2=x2+8 890 IF x=81 THEN x=tx:y=y+1:x2=stx:y2=y2		390 DATA 00,00,00,FE,00,00,00,00,FE
-16:60SUB 1330: IF df=1 THEN GOSUB 1140:E		400 DATA 01,01,01,01,00,00,00,DD,E1
LSE IF y<26 THEN PRINT: 60TO 910	1370 :	410 DATA 6E,06,0D,66,07,DD,4E,02,ZEB
900 GOSUB 1300:IF df=1 THEN x=tx:y=y+1:x		420 DATA DD,46,04,DD,7E,00,32,03,2B7
2=stx:y2=y2-16:GOSUB 1330:IF df=1 THEN 6		436 DATA 95,CD,F6,95,C9,C5,E5,1A,57A
OSUB 1140: ELSE IF y<26 THEN PRINT	1400 PLOT 105,360:60SUB 4590	440 DATA 77,23,13,10,FA,E1,01,00,299
910 IF y=26 THEN GOSUB 1140	1410 RESTORE 4670: UPRINT, 120, 346, "Graph	450 DATA 08,09,30,04,01,50,C0,09,15F
920 IF ex=1 THEN GOTD 970	ics"	460 DATA C1,0D,20,E9,C9,7A,2F,57,3A0
	1420 TAG:FOR n=1 TO 7:READ a\$:MOVE 120,3	470 DATA 78,2F,5F,13,E5,AF,67,6F,386
B 1330: IF df=1 THEN GOSUB 1140	30-(n*16):PRINT a\$;:NEXT:TAGOFF	480 DATA E3,7A,83,20,02,E1,C7,06,3E2
	1430 a%=0: :MENU, 7, 0, 0, 1, 1, 120, 316, @a%	490 DATA 11,CB,15,CB,14,38,10,10,228
950 WEND	1440   PASTE, 49152+160+13, z, 20, 100	500 DATA F8,18,14,E3,E5,19,30,01,336
760 CLOSEIN	1450 ON a% GOSUB 1490, 1630, 1730, 1770, 187	510 DATA E3,E1,E3,CB,15,CB,14,E3,549
970 RETURN	0,2130,2310	520 DATA CB, 15, CB, 14, E3, 10, EC, D1, 46F
980 :	1460 RETURN	530 DATA CB, 2A, CB, 1B, C9, DD, 6E, 06, 3F5
990 :	1470 :	540 DATA DD,66,07,DD,5E,04,DD,56,3BC
1000 IF x>stx THEN PRINT CHR\$(8);:x=x-1;		550 DATA 05, DD, 4E, 00, DD, 46, 02, C5, 31A
RETURN	1490 60SUB 2340: INPUT "(W)rite or (E)ras	560 DATA E5,7E,12,23,13,10,FA,E1,396
1010 IF x=stx AND y>sty THEN x=79:y=y-1:	1500 IF at-14" TUEN page-1-20010 2400-51	570 DATA 01,00,08,09,30,04,01,50,97
LOCATE x, y: RETURN	1500 IF e\$="w" THEN penn=1:60SUB 2400:EL	580 DATA CO,09,C1,OD,20,E9,C9,DD,446
1020 RETURN	SE IF e%="e" THEN penn=0:60SUB 2400:ELSE	590 DATA 6E,06,DD,66,07,DD,5E,04,2FD
	BOSUB .2400: GOTO 1490	

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Suspended.     24.00       Trinity.     27.00       Witness.     24.00       Wishbringer.     24.00       Zork I.     24.00       Zork II.     24.00       Zork III.     24.00	Bureaucracy 20.00 Hacker 20.00 Hacker 2 20.00 Little Comp. People 20.00 Shanghai 20.00 Tass Times 20.00 Strip Poker 15.00	Liberator
Suspended. 24.00 Trinity 27.00 Witness 24.00 Wishbringer 24.00 Zork I. 24.00 Zork III 24.00 Zork III 24.00 Sork III 24.00 Sork III 24.00	Bureaucracy 20.00 Hacker 2.000 Hacker 2.000 Hacker 2.000 Shanghai 20.00 Shanghai 20.00 Strip Poker 15.00 Tee-up 15.00	Liberator
Suspended         24 00           Trinity         27 00           Witness         24 00           Wishbringer         24 00           Zork I         24 00           Zork III         24 00           Silent Service         20 00           Ultima III         20 00	Bureaucracy         20.00           Hacker         20.00           Hacker 2         20.00           Little Comp. People         20.00           Shanghai         20.00           Tass Times         20.00           Strip Poker         15.00           Tee-up.         15.00	Liberator
Suspended. 24 00 Trinity 27 00 Witness 24 00 Wishbringer 24 00 Zork 24 00 Zork 24 00 Zork 11 24 00 Zork 11 24 00 Zork 11 24 00 Utima III 20 00 Balance Of Power 30 00	Bureaucracy 20.00 Hacker 2 20.00 Hacker 2 20.00 Little Comp. People 20.00 Shanghai 20.00 Tass Times 20.00 Strip Poker 15.00 Skyfox 20.00 Skyfox 20.00 Bridge Player 2000 15.00	Liberator
Suspended         24 00           Trinity         27 00           Witness         24 00           Wishbringer         24 00           Zork I         24 00           Zork II         24 00           Zork III         24 00           Zork III         20 00           Ultima III         20 00           Balance Of Power         30 00           Defender/Crown         25 00	Bureaucracy 20.00 Hacker 2.000 Hacker 2.000 Hacker 2.000 Shanghal 20.00 Shanghal 20.00 Simp Poker 15.00 Simp Poker 15.00 Skyfox 20.00 Bridge Player 2000 15.00 Styl 50.00 Bridge Player 2000 15.00 ST Karate 15.00	Liberator
Suspended         24 00           Trinity         27 00           Witness         24 00           Wishbringer         24 00           Zork I         24 00           Zork II         24 00           Zork III         24 00           Zork III         20 00           Ultima III         20 00           Balance Of Power         30 00           Defender/Crown         25 00	Bureaucracy 20.00 Hacker 2.20.00 Hacker 2.20.00 Hacker 3.20.00 Hacker 3.20.00 Constitute Comp. People 20.00 Tass Times 20.00 Strip Poker 15.00 Tee-up 15.00 Tee-up 15.00 Bridge People 20.00 Bridge People 20.00 Protector/Station 20.00	Liberator
Suspended.         24 00           Trinity         27 00           Witness         24 00           Wishbringer         24 00           Zork II.         24 00           Zork III.         24 00           Zork III.         24 00           Silent Service         20 00           Ultima III.         20 00           Balance Of Power         30 00           Dela W./ Grown         24 00           Dela W./ Grown         24 00	Bureaucracy 20.00 Hacker 2.000 Hacker 2.20.00 Hacker 2.20.00 Shanghai 20.00 Shanghai 20.00 Strip Poker 15.00 Strip Poker 15.00 Strip Poker 15.00 Skylope Player 200.05 Strip Poker 15.00 Skylope Player 200.05 Strip Poker 200.05 Strip Poker 3.00 Strip Player 3.00 Strip P	Liberator
Suspended.         24 00           Trinity         27 00           Witness         24 00           Wishbringer         24 00           Zork I         24 00           Zork III         24 00           Silent Service         20 00           Bilance Of Power         30 00           Defender/Crown         25 00           Deja Vu         24 00           Sinbad         25 00	Bureaucracy 20.00 Hacker 2.20.00 Hacker 2.20.00 Hacker 2.20.00 Shanghal 20.00 Shanghal 20.00 Strip Poker 15.00 Strip Poker 15.00 Tee-up 15.00 Bridge Player 2000 15.00 Bridge Player 2001 15.00 Fotector/Stration 20.00 Protector/Stration 20.00 Prote	Liberator
Suspended	Bureaucracy 20.00 Hacker 2.20.00 Hacker 2.20.00 Hacker 2.20.00 Shanghal 20.00 Shanghal 20.00 Strip Poker 15.00 Strip Poker 15.00 Tee-up 15.00 Bridge Player 2000 15.00 Bridge Player 2001 15.00 Fotector/Stration 20.00 Protector/Stration 20.00 Prote	Liberator
Suspended	Bureaucracy 20.00 Hacker 20.00 Hacker 20.00 Hacker 20.00 Hacker 20.00 Shanghai 20.00 Tass Times 20.00 Tass Times 15.00 Tee-up 15.00 Flore 15.00 Tee-up 15.00 Tee-	Liberator
Suspended	Bureaucracy 20.00 Hacker 2.20.00 Hacker 2.20.00 Hacker 2.20.00 Shanghai 20.00 Shanghai 20.00 Strip Poker 15.00 Strip Poker 20.00 Strip Poker 15.00 Bridge Player 20.00 Wor Zone/Fireblaster 20.00	Liberator
Suspended. 24 00 Trinity 27 00 Witness 24 00 Wishbringer 24 00 Workshipper 24 00 Zork II 24 00 Zork III 24 00 Zork III 24 00 John Silent Service 20 00 Ultima III 7 Power 20 00 Defender/Crown 25 00 Defender/Crown 25 00 Disp Vu 24 00 Sinbad 25 00 Sinbad 25 00 Uninverser 24 00 Uninverser 25 00 Defender/Crown 25 00 Depo Space 24 00 Depo Space 24 00 Depo Space 24 00	Bureaucracy 20.00 Hacker 2.20.00 Hacker 2.20.00 Hacker 2.20.00 Stargham 2.20.00 Tass Times 20.00 Tass Times 20.00 Tee-up 15.00 Tee-up 15.00 Tee-up 20.00 Tee-up 20.00 Tee-up 20.00 Tee-up 30.00 Tee-up 45.00 War Zone/Fireblaster 20.00 Tee-up 45.00 Tee-up	Liberator
Suspended.         24 00           Trinity         27,00           Witness         24 00           Wishbringer         24 00           Zork I         24 00           Zork II         24 00           Sollent Service         20 00           Ultima III         20 00           Balance Of Power         30 00           Defender/Crown         25 00           Sipbad         25 00           Sinbad         25 00           Sol         24 00           Variance         25 00           Deep Space         25 00           Deep Space         24 00           Silicon Dreems         15 00	Bureaucracy 20.00 Hacker 20.00 Hacker 20.00 Hacker 20.00 Hacker 20.00 Shanghai 20.00 Tass Times 20.00 Tass Times 15.00 Skyrlox 20.00 Skyrlox 15.00 Skyrlox 15.00 St Karate 15.00 ST Karate 15.00 ST Karate 20.00 ST Karate 20.00 War Zone/Fireblaster 20.00 Jewells of Darkness 12.00 Jewells of Darkness 12.00 Jewells of Darkness 12.00	Liberator
Suspended	Bureaucracy 20.00 Hacker 2.20.00 Hacker 2.20.00 Hacker 2.20.00 Comp. People 20.00 Tass Times 20.00 Tros Cond 45.00 Tass Times 20.00 Tass Times	Liberator
Suspended. 24 00 Trinity 27 00 Witness 24 00 Wishbringer 24 00 Workshipper 24 00 Zork II 24 00 Zork III 24 00 Zork III 24 00 John Silent Service 20 00 Ultima III 7 Power 20 00 Defender/Crown 25 00 Defender/Crown 25 00 Disp Vu 24 00 Sinbad 25 00 Sinbad 25 00 Uninverser 24 00 Uninverser 25 00 Defender/Crown 25 00 Depo Space 24 00 Depo Space 24 00 Depo Space 24 00	Bureaucracy 20.00 Hacker 20.00 Hacker 20.00 Hacker 20.00 Hacker 20.00 Shanghai 20.00 Tass Times 20.00 Tass Times 15.00 Skyrlox 20.00 Skyrlox 15.00 Skyrlox 15.00 St Karate 15.00 ST Karate 15.00 ST Karate 20.00 ST Karate 20.00 War Zone/Fireblaster 20.00 Jewells of Darkness 12.00 Jewells of Darkness 12.00 Jewells of Darkness 12.00	Liberator

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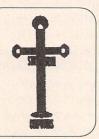
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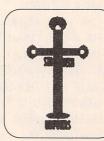


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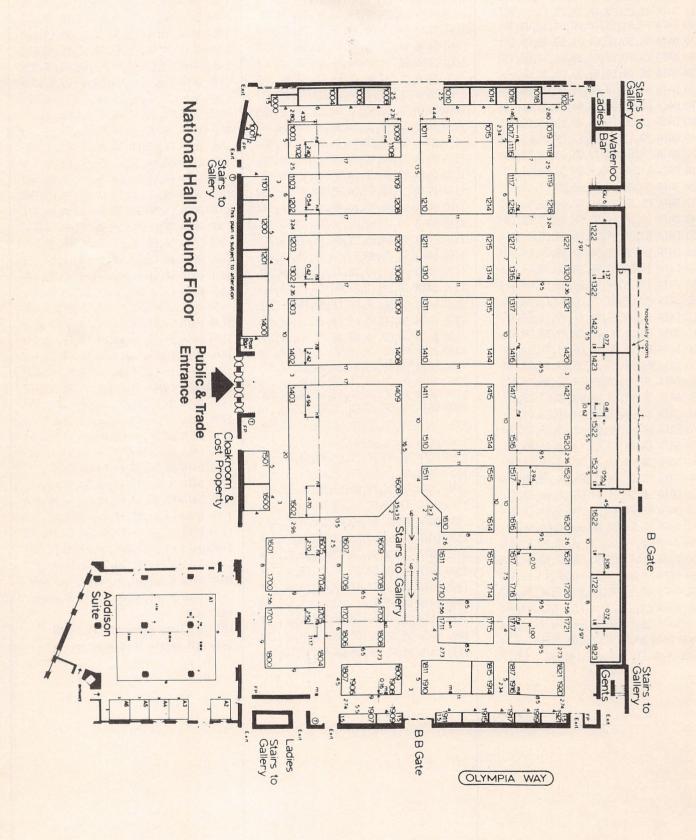
## PROGRAMMING: AMSTRAD CPC

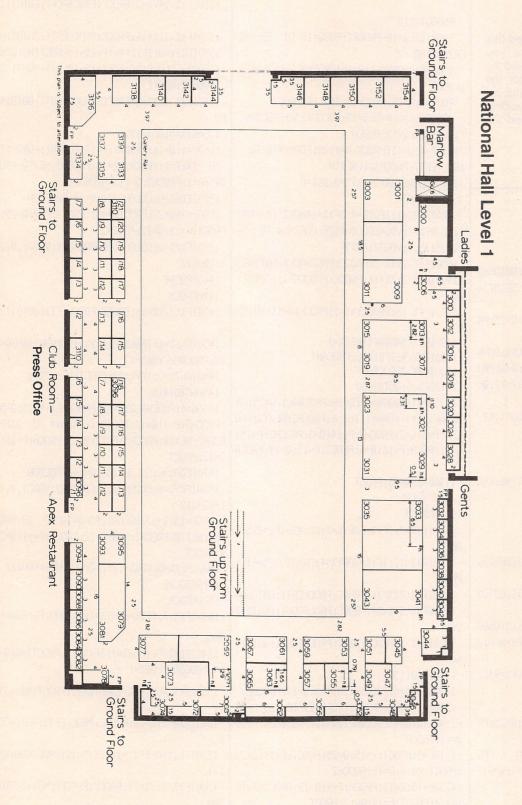
#### 

600 DATA DD,56,05,DD,4E,00,DD,46,386 610 DATA 02, C5, E5, 1A, 77, 23, 13, 10, 283 620 DATA FA,E1,01,00,08,09,30,04,221 630 DATA 01,50,C0,09,C1,0D,20,E9,2F1 640 DATA C9, DD, 6E, 02, DD, 66, 03, DD, 439 650 DATA 5E,04,DD,56,05,CB,3C,CB,36C 660 DATA 1D, CD, 1D, BC, 18, OC, C9, DD, 38D 670 DATA 6E,02, DD, 66,04, 2D, 25, CD, 2D6 680 DATA 1A, BC, DD, 5E, 00, DD, 56, 01, 345 690 DATA 7D, 12, 13, 7C, 12, C9, C5, E5, 3A3 700 DATA 3A,03,95,77,23,13,10,FB,287 710 DATA E1,01,00,08,09,30,04,01,128 720 DATA 50,C0,09,C1,0D,20,E7,C9,3B7 730 DATA CD,58,96,DD,5E,04,DD,56,42D 740 DATA 05, DD, 6E, 02, DD, 66, 03, ED, 385 750 DATA 53,E4,94,22,E6,94,CD,CO,4F4 760 DATA BB, 3A, EB, 94, 47, DD, 2A, E9, 4AB 770 DATA 94,CD,B3,96,2A,E6,94,06,454 780 DATA 10,28,10,FD,ED,58,E4,94,408 790 DATA CD,CO,BB,21,00,00,11,08,282 800 DATA 00,3A,E8,94,47,19,10,FD,323 810 DATA EB, 21, 00, 00, CD, F9, BB, C9, 456 820 DATA DD, 6E, 00, DD, 66, 01, 7E, 32, 33F 830 DATA E8,94,23,7E,32,E9,94,23,3EF 840 DATA 7E,32,EA,94,C9,CD,58,96,4B2 850 DATA 3E,17,CD,5A,BB,3E,03,CD,345 860 DATA 5A,BB,DD,5E,04,DD,56,05,38C 870 DATA DD, 6E, 02, DD, 66, 03, ED, 53, 3D3 880 DATA E4,94,22,E6,94,CD,CO,BB,55C 890 DATA 3A,E8,94,47,DD,2A,E9,94,481 900 DATA CD, B3, 96, 2A, E6, 94, 2B, 2B, 410 910 DATA ED, 5B, E4, 94, CD, CO, BB, 3A, 542 920 DATA EB,94,47,DD,2A,E9,94,CD,514 930 DATA B3, 96, C9, 3E, 05, CD, 5A, BB, 437 940 DATA DD, 7E, 00, CD, 5A, BB, DD, 23, 43D 950 DATA 10,F1,C9,DD,5E,00,DD,56,438 960 DATA 01,1A,47,13,1A,6F,13,1A,12B 970 DATA 67, 13, 7E, C5, E5, CD, DE, 96, 4E3 980 DATA E1,C1,23,10,F5,C9,CD,A5,505 990 DATA BB,11,EB,94,06,08,CD,06,32C 1000 DATA B9,7E,F5,CD,09,B9,F1,12,4BE 1010 DATA 23,13,10,F2,06,08,21,EB,252

1020 DATA 94,11,F3,94,7E,12,13,12,2E1 1030 DATA 13,23,10,F8,3E,FE,21,F3,38E 1040 DATA 94,CD,A8,BB,3E,FF,21,FB,51D 1050 DATA 94,CD,AB,BB,3E,FE,CD,5A,527 1060 DATA BB, 3E, 0A, CD, 5A, BB, 3E, 08, 32B 1070 DATA CD, 5A, BB, 3E, FF, CD, 5A, BB, 501 1080 DATA 3E.OB.CD.5A.BB.C9.3E.01.333 1090 DATA 32,00,95,3E,00,32,0D,95,1E5 1100 DATA 3E, 17, CD, 5A, BB, 3E, 01, CD, 343 1110 DATA 5A, BB, CD, BA, BB, DD, 7E, 0E, 4CO 1120 DATA 32,0E,95,DD,7E,0C,32,08,276 1130 DATA 95, DD, 7E, 0A, 32, 09, 95, DD, 3A7 1140 DATA 7E,08,32,0A,95,DD,7E,06,288 1150 DATA 32,0B,95,DD,5E,04,DD,56,344 1160 DATA 05, DD, 6E, 02, DD, 66, 03, ED, 385 1170 DATA 53,04,95,22,06,95,CD,86,2FC 1180 DATA 98,CD,98,97,3A,OD,95,FE,46E 1190 DATA 00,20,07,3E,42,CD,1E,BB,24D 1200 DATA 28,EF,CD,86,98,3E,17,CD,424 1210 DATA 5A,BB,3E,00,CD,5A,BB,C9,3FE 1220 DATA 3A,08,95,FE,00,28,07,3E,242 1230 DATA 08,CD,1E,BB,20,75,3A,09,286 1240 DATA 95,FE,00,28,07,3E,01,CD,2CE 1250 DATA 1E, BB, 20, 41, 3A, 0A, 95, FE, 311 1260 DATA 00,28,07,3E,00,CD,1E,BB,213 1270 DATA 20,7C,3A,0B,95,FE,00,28,29C 1280 DATA 08,3E,02,CD,1E,BB,C2,60,310 1290 DATA 98, 3F, 05, CP, 1E, BR, 20, 01, 2A6 1300 DATA CY.DD, 6E, 00, DD, 66, 01, 3A, 392 1310 DATA OC, 95, 77, 32, OD, 95, C9, O6, 2BB 1320 DATA 50,C5,06,FF,10,FE,C1,10,3F7 1330 DATA F8, CD, 19, BD, C9, 3A, OE, 95, 441 1340 DATA 47,3A,0C,95,BB,CB,CD,E7,456 1350 DATA 97, CD, 86, 98, ED, 58, 04, 95, 463 1360 DATA 21,60,00,AF,19,22,04,95,204 1370 DATA CD,86,98,3A,0C,95,3C,32,334 1380 DATA OC, 95, C9, 3A, OC, 95, FE, 01, 344 1390 DATA CB,CD,E7,97,CD,86,98,2A,528 1400 DATA 04,95,11,60,00,AF,ED,52,2F8 1410 DATA 22,04,95,CD,86,98,3A,0C,2EC 1420 DATA 95,3D,32,0C,95,C9,3A,0C,2B4 1430 DATA 95,FE,O1,C8,CD,E7,97,CD,574

1440 DATA 86,98,2A,06,95,11,10,00,204 1450 DATA AF, 19, 22, 06, 95, CD, 66, 98, 370 1460 DATA 3A, OC, 95, 3D, 32, OC, 95, C9, 284 1470 DATA 3A,0E,95,47,3A,0C,95,B8,2B7 1480 DATA CB, CD, E7, 97, CD, 86, 98, 2A, 528 1490 DATA 06,95,11,10,00,AF,ED,52,2AA 1500 DATA 22,06,95,CD,86,98,3A,0C,2EE 1510 DATA 95,3C,32,0C,95,C9,ED,5B,3B5 1520 DATA 04,95,2A,06,95,CD,CO,BB,3A6 1530 DATA 3E,05,CD,5A,BB,3E,8F,CD,3BF 1540 DATA SA, 88, 3E, 05, CD, 5A, 88, 3E, 378 1550 DATA 8F, CD, 5A, BB, 3E, 05, CD, 5A, 3DB 1560 DATA BB, 3E, 8F, CD, 5A, BB, 3E, 05, 3AD 1570 DATA CD,5A,88,3E,8F,CD,5A,88,491 1580 DATA 3E,05,CD,5A,BB,3E,8F,CD,3BF 1590 DATA 5A, BB, 3E, 05, CD, 5A, BB, 3E, 378 1600 DATA BF, CD, 5A, BB, 3E, 05, CD, 5A, 3DB 1610 DATA BB, 3E, 8F, CD, 5A, BB, 3E, 05, 3AD 1620 DATA CD,5A,8B,3E,8F,CD,5A,8B,491 1630 DATA 3E,05,CD,5A,BB,3E,8F,CD,3BF 1640 DATA 5A.BB. 3E. 05, CD. 5A.BB. 3E. 378 1650 DATA BE,CD,SA,BB,C9,DD,7E,00,495 1660 DATA CD,58,80,C9,DD,6E,04,DD,4DA 1670 DATA 66,05, DD, 56,03, DD, 5E,02, 2DE 1680 DATA DD,46,01,00,4E,00,ED,B0,3EC 1690 DATA C9, DD, 6E, 02, DD, 66, 03, 7E, 3DA 1700 DATA 32,5A,99,23,5E,23,56,EB,30A 1710 DATA 22,58,99,00,6E,00,00,66,3A4 1720 DATA 01,22,50,99,3A,5A,99,47,280 1730 DATA 2A,5B,99,11,F8,07,CD,77,372 1740 DATA BC, D2, 49, 99, 2A, 5D, 99, CD, 45D 1750 DATA 83, BC, D2, 49, 99, CD, 7A, BC, 4F6 1760 DATA C9,21,5F,99,06,0B,CD,52,312 1770 DATA 99,C9,7E,CD,5A,BB,23,10,3F5 1780 DATA F9,C9,00,00,00,00,00,52,214 1790 DATA 45,41,44,20,45,52,52,4F,222 1800 DATA 52,2E,00,00,00,00,00,00,00,80 1810 DATA 00,00,00,00,00,00,00,00,0 1820 REM 1830 REM Once pager bin is saved 1840 REM delete this program.





## PCW Show floorplan and show guide

Company	Stand No
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oompany otania	
Acorn	1303
Activision	1417
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Amstrad	1403
Anco	3059
Anglo Computers	0316
Arnor	1915
Atari Atari Vi	
Babani Publishing	1001
Bubble Bus	1008
Cambridge Computers	1607
Compuprint	4002
Computer Bookshops	2212
CRL	3142
Cumana	2026
D & H Games	3096
Digital Integration	1201
Direct Disk	3096
Domark	3035
Durell	3146
<b>Electric Dreams</b>	1317
<b>Electromusic Research</b>	3030
Electronic Arts	1517
Hi-Soft	3077
Kuma	3154
Level 9	3066
	1018
Lightwave Leisure	3093
Llamasoft	
Martech	3009
Mastertronic	1109
Mattel	3032
Micronet	3143
Microprose	1511
Miracle Technology	4042
Mirrorsoft	1601
Newsfield	3047
Novagen	3062
Ocean	1411
<b>Pace Micro Technology</b>	4026
Piranha	1617
Popular Computing	3021
Precision	4208
RAM Electronics	4015
Robtek	1117
Romantic Robot	1921
	2010
Samsung Sentinel	2116
	3140
Software Projects	
Superior	3096
Tasman	1916
Trojan	3017
Tynesoft	1722
US Gold	1311
Virgin Games	3096

#### PROGRAMMING: BBC

#### **Blackwolf**

J Myatt

Part two of Blackwolf is presented this week. To complete the game you must make it to the door marked IN, while collecting a series of keys for the locked doors, a gun to shoot the ants, an axe for opening a pair of trees, and avoiding the giant ants, the rolling barrels, and the two types of gun posts.

7001FX%<2X%=16: PROCC: PROCLEFT1: G0T0960 7101FY%>24Y%=3: PROCC: PROCBACK1: 60T0730 72060T0650

730Q=11:PROCWAL1:Q=18:PROCWAL1:Q=25:PR

740P=4:Q=1:PROCH2:P=13:Q=2:PROCR1:FORQ =3 TO 6:PROCR2:NEXTQ:PROCR3:P=2:Q=6:PRO CT:P=4:Q=7:PROCT:P=15:Q=4:PROCH2:P=11:Q= 6:PROCT

7501FK4%=0:COLDUR128:COLOUR7:VDU31,12, 8:VDU212

760PROCRE: BE%=0

770PROCM

780IFK4%=0:IFX%=11ANDY%=8:PROCTING:K4%

7901FX%<5ANDBE%=0ST%=1

8001FY%>10: IFST%=0: PROCANT

OLOCTY-O

810ST%=0

820IFX%>16X%=2:PROCC:PROCRIGHT1:GOTO20

DTATEV

8301FY%<3:Y%=24:PROCC:PROCFRONT1:60T05

8401FX%<2X%=16:PROCC:PROCLEFT1:GOT0880 8501FX%>6:1FY%=50RY%=6:0%=470:P%=850:P ROCL

8601FX%<11:1FY%=20RY%=3:0%=350:P%=945: PROCL

870DE%=0:GOTO770

880Q=11:PROCWAL2:Q=18:PROCWAL2:Q=25:PR

890P=2:Q=2:PROCH:P=13:FORQ=1 TO 6:PRO CR2:NEXTQ:PROCR3:P=5:Q=7:PROCT:P=1:Q=6:P ROCT

900PROCRE

910PROCM

920IFX%>16X%=2:PROCC:PROCRIGHT1:GOTO73

0

9301FX%<2:PROCC:X%=16:PROCLEFT1:60T022

9401FY%<3PROCC: Y%=24: PROCFRONT1: 601096

950G0T0910

960P=13:Q=18:PROCR1:FORQ=19 TO 25:PRO CR2:NEXTQ

970Q=4:PROCWAL1:Q=10:PROCWAL1:P=3:Q=24 :PROCT

980P=4:Q=19:PROCH:P=2:Q=19:PROCT

9901FD9%=0:P=5:Q=13:COLOUR130:PROCDOV

1000P=14: Q=12: PROCH

1010P=4:Q=11:PROCH:N=1085:FORM=478 TO

680STEP32:PROCRIVI:NEXTM

1020PRDCRE: J%=20: ST%=0: BE%=0

1030PROCM

10401FK9%=1:1FD9%=0:1FX%=6ANDY%>10:PROC TING:D9%=1:VDU4:COLOUR128:FORT=14 TO 18

:VDU31,5,T:VDU32:NEXTT

1050IFY%>24YX=3:PROCC:PROCBACK1:60T0880 1060IFX%<2:XX=16:PROCC:PROCLEFT1:60T021

80

10701FX%)16:PROCC:XX=2:PROCRIGHT1:G0T05

10801FX%<5ANDBE%=05T%=1

1090IFY%<9: IFST%=0: PROCANT

1100IFY%) 7PROCBAR

1110DE%=0:60T01030

1120Q=11:PROCWAL2:Q=18:PROCWAL1:Q=25:PR UCWAL1:P=1:FORQ=1 TO 6:PROCR2:NEXTQ:PRO CR3:P=3:Q=2:PROCH2:P=14:Q=5:PROCH2:P=15: Q=1:PROCH:P=16:Q=6:PROCT:P=15:Q=19:PROCH 2

1130P=6: Q=13: PROCT

1140PROCRE

1150PROCM

1160IFXX>7: IFYX=60RYX=7:0X=420:PX=815:P ROCL

1170IFX%<12:IFY%=30RY%=4:0%=320:P%=910: PROCL

11801FXX<2XX=16:PROCC:PROCLEFT1:GOTO60 11901FYX<3YX=24:PROCC:PROCFRONT1:GOT012 20

1200IFX%>16PROCC:X%=2:PROCRIGHT1:60T013

1210G0T01150

12201FD2%=0:COLDUR128:P=3:Q=14:PROCDOV 1230P=1:Q=20:PROCR1:FORQ=21 TO 25:PROC R2:NEXTQ:Q=4:PROCWAL1:Q=10:PROCWAL1:P=2: Q=12:PROCH

1240P=5:PROCT:P=15:Q=25:PROCT:P=13:Q=22 :PROCT:P=16:Q=19:PROCH2

1250P=15:Q=13:PROCH:P=9:Q=12:PROCT:P=13 :Q=14:PROCT:P=14:Q=17:PROCT

1260PROCRE: BE%=0

1270PROCM

1280IFX%>7: IFY%=200RY%=21: 0%=530: P%=370

1290IFX%<5ANDBE%=0:ST%=1 1300IFY%<9:IFST%=0:PROCANT 1310IFY%>24Y%=3:PROCC:PROCBACK1:60T0112

13201FXX<2XX=16:PROCC:PROCLEFT1:60T0310 13301FD2X=0:IFXX=4:IFK2X=1:PROCTIN6:D2X =1:VDU4:COLOUR128:FORT=15 TO 19:VDU31,3

,T:VDU32:NEXTT

13401FXX>16XX=2:PROCC:PROCRIGHT1:GOTO14

1350ST%=0:GOTB1270

1360P=1:Q=16:PROCR1:P=13:PROCR1:FORQ=17
TO 24:P=1:PROCR2:P=13:PROCR2:NEXTQ:PROCR3:P=1:PROCR3:Q=11:PROCWAL1

13701FD6%=0:COLOUR130:Q=18:PROCDOH

1380P=7:Q=22:PROCT:P=11:PROCT:P=9:Q=25: PROCT:P=15:Q=12:PROCH2

1390IFK7%=0:COLOUR128:COLOUR1:VDU31,9,2 3:VDU212

1400PROCRE

1410PROCM

1420IFX%<2X%=16:PROCC:PROCLEFT1:GOTO112

14301FK6%=1: IFD6%=0: IFY%=17: PROCTIN6: Q= 18: PROCDOVC: D6%=1

1440IFK7%=0: IFY%=23: PROCTING: K7%=1 1450B0T01410

1460q=4:PROCWAL2:Q=10:PROCWAL1:P=15:Q=5 :PROCH2:P=1:Q=13:PROCR1:FORQ=14 TO 23:P ROCR2:NEXTQ:PROCR3:P=13:Q=13:PROCH:P=16: Q=12:PROCT

1470IFD8%=0:COLOUR130:Q=14:PROCDOH 1480IFK9%=0:COLOUR128:COLOUR2:VDU31,8,2 1:VDU212

1490P=13:Q=17:PROCR1:FORQ=18 TO 23:PRO CR2:NEXTQ:PROCR3:P=8:Q=22:PROCH:P=11:Q=2 4:PROCT

15001FK1%=0:VDU31,15,12:COLOUR1:VDU21Z 1510PROCRE

1520PROCM

1530IFXX>7:IFYX=60RYX=7:0X=500:PX=820:P

ROCL

1540IFD8%=0: IFK8%=1: IFY%=13: PROCTING: Q= 14: PROCDOVC: D8%=1

15501FK9%=0:1FX%=7ANDY%=21:PROCTING:K9%

15601FXX<2XX=16:PROCC:PROCLEFT1:60T0122

1570IFK1%=0: IFX%=14: IFY%=12: PROCTING: K1

1580 IFY%<3: Y%=24: PROCC: PROCFRONT1: 60T01 980

1590G0T0152(

1600P=4:Q=22:PROCH:Q=11:PROCH:P=13:Q=22 :PROCH:Q=11:PROCH:P=3:Q=18:PROCH2:P=15:Q =15:PROCH2

1610FORM=350 TO 600STEP32:N=330:PROCRI V1:N=840:PROCRIV1:NEXTM

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16201FD3%=0:P=17:Q=3:COLOUR129:PROCDOV 16309=4: PROCWAL1: 9=10: PROCWAL2: P=2: 9=6: PROCT: IFK2%=0: COLOUR7: VDU31, 4, 7: VDU212 1640PROCRE: J%=11 1650PROCM 1660IFX%<11:IFY%=190RY%=20:0%=320:P%=39 5: PROCL 1670IFX%>7: IFY%=160RY%=17: 0%=420: P%=495 :PROCL 1680IFK3%=1: IFX%=15: IFD3%=0: PROCTING: VD U4:COLOUR128:FORT=5 TO 7:VDU31,17,T:VDU 32: NEXTT: D3%=1 16901FY%>24: PROCC: Y%=3: PROCBACK1: 60TO31 17001FX%>16:X%=2:PROCC:PROCRIGHT1:GOTO1 840 17101FK2%=0: IFX%=5: VDU4: COLOUR128: VDU31 , 4, 7: VDU32: PROCTING: K2%=1 1720PROCBAR 1730DE%=0:60T01650 1740Q=4: PROCWAL2: Q=10: PROCWAL2: F=1: Q=12 :PROCR1:FORG=13 TO 20:PROCR2:NEXTG:PROC R3: Q=25: PROCWAL1 17501FAXED%=0:P=8:Q=10:PROCT:P=10:PROCT 1760P=1:Q=7:PROCT:P=17:PROCT:IFK3%=0:CD LOUR128: COLOUR1: VDU31, 16, 7: VDU212 1770P=13:Q=12:PROCR1:FORQ=13 TO 20:PRO CR2: NEXTO: PROCR3 17801FK5%=0:COLOUR128:COLOUR1:VDU31,7,2 2: VDU212 1790PROCRE 1ROOPROCM 18101FK5%=0: IFX%=7: IFY%=22: PROCTING: K5% =1 1820IFYX<3:YX=24:PROCC:PROCFRONT1:GOTO8 1830IFK3%=0: IFX%=15ANDY%=7: PROCTING: K3% 1840IFY%=8: IFAXE%=1: IFAXED%=0: PROCTING: VDU4: COLOUR128: VDU31, 8, 9: VDU32: VDU32: VDU 32: VDU32: VDU31, 8, 10: VDU32: VDU32: VD U32:AXED%=1:S%=S%+30 1850G0T01800 1860Q=4: PROCWAL1: Q=10: PROCWAL2: J%=13: P= 13:Q=12:PROCR1:FORQ=13 TO 23:PROCR2:NEX TQ:PROCR3:P=4:Q=12:PROCH 1870P=7: Q=22: PROCH: P=10: Q=25: PROCT: P=15 :Q=14:PROCH2

19401FD4%=0: IFK4%=1: IFY%=8: Q=9: PROCTING : PROCDOVC: D4%=1 1950PROCBAR 1960IFX%<2: PROCC: X%=16: PROCLEFT1: 60T016 1970DE%=0:GOTO1920 1980Q=4: PROCWAL1: Q=6: P=1: PROCR1: P=13: PR OCR1:FORQ=7 TO 19:PROCR2:NEXTQ:PROCR3:P =1:FORQ=7 TO 19:PROCR2:NEXTQ:PROCR3:J%= 1990IFD5%=0: COLOUR129: Q=12: PROCDOH 2000P=7:Q=7:PROCT:P=11:PROCT:IFK6%=0:C0 LOUR2: VDU31, 9, 5: VDU212 2010Q=24: PROCWAL2: PROCRE 2020PROCM 20301FD5%=0: IFK5%=1: IFY%=14: PROCTING: Q= 12: PROCDOVC: D5%=1 20401FY%>24:Y%=3:PROCC:PROCBACK1:60T014 2050PROCBAR 20601FK6%=0:1FY%=6:PROCTING:K6%=1 2070DE%=0:60T02020 2080Q=24:PROCWAL2:Q=4:FROCWAL1:Q=10:PRO CWAL1: FORM=350 TB 650STEP32: N=220: PROCR IV1: N=1100: PROCRIV1: NEXTM 2090P=13:Q=18:PROCH2:SK%=19 2100P=12:Q=15:PROCT:P=14:Q=12:PROCH:P=5 :Q=13:PROCT:COLOUR1:VDU31,3,5:VDU187:VDU 188: VDU31, 3, 6: VDU186: VDU189 21101FK8%=0: COLOUR128: COLOUR2: VDU31, 16, 21: VDH217 2120PROCRE 2130PR0CM 21401FY%>24:Y%=3:PROCC:PROCBACK1:G0T044 21501FK8%=0:1FX%=15:1FY%=21:PROCTING:K8 2160PROCSHO 2170DE%=0:G0T02130 2180Q=4: PROCWAL1: Q=10: PROCWAL1: Q=25: PRO CWAL1: P=2: Q=7: PROCT: P=13: Q=18: PROCR1: FOR Q=19 TO 24: PROCR2: NEXTQ: PROCR3 2190P=14:Q=17:PROCT:P=11:Q=14:PROCH:P=2 :Q=12:PROCH:N=220:FORM=290 TO 550STEP32 :PROCRIVI:NEXTM:P=7:Q=13:PROCH:P=2:Q=23: PROCH 22001FK10%=0:COLOUR12B:COLOUR2:VDU31,5, 20: VDU212 2210P=8: 0=20: PROCT: P=6: 0=19: PROCT 2220PROCRE 2230PROCM 22401FK10%=0:1FX%=5:1FY%=21:PROCTING:K1 22501FX%>16: X%=2: PROCC: PROCRIGHT1: 60T09 226060T02230

2270M=950:FDRN=230 TO 1000STEP40:PROCR IV1: NEXTN: 0=11: PROCWAL2: 0=25: PROCWAL1: 0= 18: PROCWAL2: P=2: Q=2: PROCH: Q=5: PROCH: P=15 : PROCH: Q=2: PROCH 2280P=12:Q=13:FROCT:P=13:Q=15:PROCT:P=1 : 0=13: PROCR1: FORQ=14 TO 20: PROCR2: NEXTO :PROCR3 2290J%=17: IFD10%=0: COLOUR130: Q=10: PROCD DH 2300C0L0UR1:C0L0UR135:VDU31,9,4:VDU217: VDU218: VDU31, 9, 5: VDU219: VDU220: COLDUR7: C OLOUR130: VDU31, 3, 16: VDU207: VDU208: VDU31, 3,17:VDU209:VDU210 2310P=7:Q=7:PROCT:P=11:PROCT 2320PROCRE 2330PROCM 23401FX%>16: X%=2: PROCC: PROCRIGHT1: GOTOB 23501FY%=7: PROCF 23AOPROCRAR 23701FY%=12: IFD10%=0: IFK10%=1: PROCTING: Q=10:PROCDOVC:D10%=1 2380DE%=0:GOTO2330 2390DEFPROCM 2400C0L0UR128 2410IFINKEY (-73) AND INKEY (-105): G0T02520 2420JFFR%=OANDINKEY(-73)JFW%=0:Y%=Y%-1: PROCFRONT1: LF%=0: FO%=1: RG%=0: BK%=0: GOTO2 24301FFR%=0ANDINKEY(-73)1FW%=1:Y%=Y%-1: PROCFRONT2:FD%=1:BK%=0:RG%=0 24401FBK%=0: IFINKEY (-105) IFW%=0: Y%=Y%+1 : PROCBACK 1:1 F%=0: F0%=2: FR%=0: R6%=0: G0T02 24501FBK%=0: IFINKEY (-105) IFW%=1: Y%=Y%+1 : PROCBACK2: F0%=2: FR%=0: R6%=0 2460IFRG%=OANDINKEY(-67)IFW%=1:X%=X%+1: PROCRIGHT2: LF%=0: BK%=0: FG%=3: FR%=0: GGTG2 24701FRG%=OANDINKEY(-67)1FW%=0; X%=X%+1; PROCRIGHT1:F0%=3:FR%=0:BK%=0:LF%=0 24801FLF%=OANDINKEY(-98)1FW%=1:X%=X%-1: PROCLEFT2: R6%=0: BK%=0: F0%=4: FR%=0: 60T026 24901FLF%=OANDINKEY(-98)1FW%=0:X%=X%-1: PROCLEFT1:FO%=4:FR%=0:RG%=0 25001FINKEY (-73) AND INKEY (-67): FO%=5 25101F6U%=0ENDFROC 25201FF0%=1ANDINKEY (-74)F1%=1 25301FF1%=1:PROCFIU 25401FF0%=2ANDINKEY (-74)F1%=2 2550IFF1%=2:PROCFID 25601FF0%=4ANDINKEY(-74)F1%=4 2570IFF1%=4: PROCFIL 25801FF0%=3ANDINKEY(-74)F1%=3

1880P=17:Q=7:PROCT:N=250:FORM=290 TO 5

1890IFAXE%=0: COLOUR128: COLUUR1: VDU31, I1

60STEP32: PROCRIV1: NEXTM: P=3: Q=21: PROCH

1900 IFD4%=0: COLOUR128: Q=9: PROCDOH

1930IFAXE%=0: IFY%=23: PROCTING: AXE%=1

,23: VDU216

1910PROCRE

1920PROCM

2590IFF1%=3:PROCFIR



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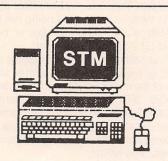
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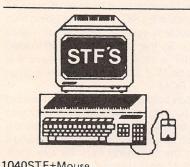


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# **Phoenix**

Ian Wooff

ver the next three weeks lan Wooff explains how to customise Basic and provides very useful examples.

# Part 1 – Adding commands to Basic

The following routine allows new commands to be added to Spectrum Basic by extending the Spectrum's interpreter held in ROM. This method works on the Spectrum, Spectrum+ and should work on 128K versions.

Although the Spectrum provides a comprehensive range of Basic commands there is always the desire to add more. The possibilities are endless, new graphic commands, commands to produce white noise, and toolkit commands soon.

There are two different ways of adding new commands to basic. The first is to reuse the tokens which are already in use. For example, the CLS command might become CLS LENGTH, HEIGHT which would clear the given area of the screen. These new commands must fail the normal syntax checking in ROM.

The second method is to create new keywords, such as \*RENUM or \*FILL. The '\*' is needed to get out of 'K' cursor mode. The star could be replaced by a dot, a question mark, or one of a variety of characters.

This article adopts the second method as although the definitions take more memory, it can be seen at a glance what they do.

The following routine demonstrates how new commands can be added to Basic, by adding a command to draw a box.

\*BOX X-Coordinate, Y-Coordinate, BOX HEIGHT, BOX LENGTH

The X and Y co-ordinates point to the bottom lefthand corner of the box, the HEIGHT and LENGTH specifying the dimensions of the box in pixels.

Listing One is a Basic program which enters the extended interpreter into memory before saving it to tape. The extended interpreter recognises, checks the syntax, and executes the new commands, when they are used.

To use the new command enter listing one and run it. Once the code has been saved to tape type NEW <ENTER>, then enter and run listing two, to test the new command

Any program which uses the extended interpreter must begin with the command 'RANDOMISE USR 64756' to turn the extended interpreter on. The commands CLEAR and NEW turn the extended interpreter off and so the above command must be used to turn it back on.

The new commands can be entered in either upper or lower case or a mixture of both. Spaces and colour codes can be added in the command at the user's will.

If the computer accepts a line containing a new command but produces the error report "Nonsense in BASIC", when the line is run then place a space in front of the new command. It is up to you to 'pad out' to new commands with spaces, if desired.

If the computer refuses to accept a line containing a new command it is probably because the extended interpreter is not turned on. To solve this place a REM command at the start of the line and the line will now be accepted by the computer. Then enter the following as a direct command, RANDOMISE USR 64756. This will turn the extended interpreter on. The REM command can now be removed from the line and the computer should accept the line, if the problem was caused by the extended interpreter being off.

The extended interpreter allows the new commands to have any form of parameters, numbers, functions, basic variables, strings etc. In short, if it's acceptable to the interpreter in ROM it is acceptable to the extended interpreter.

You may wish to alter the first character of the new command to something other than a star. To do this simply poke 64818 with its code, ie, POKE 64818,CODE "!". The new character should remove the 'K' cursor mode.

Listing Three is dissassembly of the code and shows how you can add further commands of your own.

As mentioned above the method of adding new commands is to extend the Spectrum's interpreter to include your own new commands. When the interpreter in ROM comes across something that it does not allow or understand it produces one of those irritating but useful error messages.

If we can get control before an error message is produced we could test to see if the error was caused by one of our new commands, and if so, deal with it.

To see if this is possible we need to look at what the Spectrum does with an error.

- 1) The address reached by the interpreter is copied into the error pointer X PTR.
  - 2) The error code is put in ERR NR.
- 3) The stack pointer is loaded from ERR SP, so it points to the item at the bottom of the machine stack.
  - 4) The calculator stack is cleared.
- 5) The machine code instruction RET removes the bottom item from the stack and control is given to this address.

At runtime the address removed by the RET instruction is 4867 (1303H). This halts the program and the correct error message is produced. During syntax checking this address is 4791 (12B7H), and causes the line to be displayed with a flashing cursor at the position which caused the error.

By placing the start address of our extended interpreter at the bottom of the machine stack control will be given to it when an error occurs. This seems fine, but where is the bottom of the machine stack?

The address of the bottom of the machine stack is held in the system variables at 23613/4 (5C3D/EH), and is known as ERR SP.

So all we need to do is to substitute the bottom of the machine stack, the address held in ERR SP, with the address of our extended interpreter. When an error occurs the stack pointer is loaded from ERR SP and control is transferred to our extended interpreter using the RET instruction. This seems fine, but how do we know whether the program is being run and so the command needs executing, or is just having its syntax checked?

Here the system variables come to the rescue again. This time it is FLAGS at 23611 (5C36H). When a program is being run bit 7 of FLAGS is set, when syntax is being checked bit 7 of FLAGS is reset.

The first routine at 64756 places the start address of the extended interpreter at the bottom of the machine stack. This routine is at 64756 (FCF4H), and so command RANDOMISE USR 64756 must be placed at the start of any program which uses the new commands to bring the extended interpreter into action.

During both syntax checking and runtime any new command will have error code 11 "Nonsense in BASIC", this code being held in the system variable ERR NR at 23610 (5C3AH). So the first job of our extended interpreter is to test ERR NR to see if it holds code 11. If it does not, control is given back to ROM.

If it does hold code 11 then the extended interpreter must test to see if the error was caused by one of our new commands. If it was, then its syntax must be checked and if required the command must be executed. To do this the extended interpreter uses three tables.

The first table used by the extended interpreter is the Command Table. This holds the command format data for all the new commands. Each entry in this table takes the form,

Command length, Command, parameter value (eg, 3, "BOX", 0)

The three represents the length of the new command, "BOX", and the zero is the parameter value. The table must be ended with a byte which has bit 7 set. If in doubt add 128 (80H), to the end of the table.

The second table is the Parameter Table which holds the possible parameters which new commands may have. Multiple parameters are separated by commas.

PARAMETER		PARAMETE VALUE	R
Four numbers		0	
Three numbers		2	
Two numbers		4	
One number		6	
No parameters		8	
One string		10	
Two strings		12	
One number	and	one	
string		14	

It is possible to add new parameter formats such as three strings. To do this create a routine to check for three strings separated by commas, and add it to the extended interpreter. For example:

call 7298 ;ROM routine to evaluate a string 1C8CH

call COMMA ;ex. interpreter routine test for a comma FDDAH

jp STR2

;ex. interpreter routine evaluate 2 strings FD7BH

Add the address of this routine to the end of the Parameter Table and the new parameter value becomes 2 plus the last parameter value. Using this method any combination of parameters is possible for your new commands.

The third table is the Address Table. This holds the addresses of the routines which execute the commands during runtime. The values in this table must be in the same order as the values in the Command Table.

The extended interpreter is able to handle 255 new commands. This value could easily be increased to 65535 new commands, the only problem being that of memory which sets a practical limit of less

than 1000 new commands.

Some important points to bear in mind when adding your own new commands are:

1) The parameters are placed on the calculator stack in the reverse order to how they appear in the command. Use the extended interpreter routines GETBC and GETA to get and 8 bit or 16 bit numbers off the top of the calculator stack. Strings have a string descriptor placed on the stack. To find the address and length of the string use CALL 11249 (2BF1H). On return A equals one for a complete string, ie, old copy of string to be deleted, or zero if the string comes from an array of strings or is a 'slice' of a string. BC is set to the length of the string and DE is set to the start address.

2) The registers IY and HL' must be set correctly as a return to Basic is being made. IY must always be 23610 (5C3AH), and HL' must be 10072 (2758H) on returning

3) The routines which execute the new

commands must be ended by a jump to the extended interpreter routine RET at 65197 (FEADH).

4) Two commands with the same name but different parameters are not allowed. For example, \*MOVE 10,10 and \*MOVE "SHIP", "LAND".

5) New commands which are the same as Sinclair commands are allowed. For example \*PAUSE 100 and PAUSE 100 (Sinclair command 'M' key).

6) The letters making up new commands in the Command Table **must** be entered in upper case otherwise they will not be recognised by the extended interpreter.

7) If you wish to use a different separator to a comma then duplicate the routine COMMA 64986 (FDDAH), replacing the CP "," with the desired character. The parameter routine will also need rewriting/amending to accept the new separator.

```
1 DEF FN h(a$)=FN b(a$(1))*16+FN b(a$
                                          1110 DATA "DDBE00201AE710F4",960
                                                                                  1380 DATA "FECDF7FD3276FECD", 1586
 (2))
                                          1120 DATA "FD3600FFFD362600", 907
                                                                                  1390 DATA "F7FD327E5CCDF7FD", 1473
   2 DEF FN b(a$)=CODE a$-48-7*(a$)"9")
                                          1130 DATA "E1DD6E011105FE26",871
                                                                                  1400 DATA "327D5CAFCD2B2D3A",790
  10 CLEAR 64755
                                          1140 DATA "00195E2356EBE948",780
                                                                                  1410 DATA "76FECD6FFE3A77FE", 1373
  20 FOR a=64756 TO 65143 STEP 8
                                          1150 DATA "OCO600DD09E1225D",600
                                                                                  1420 DATA "CD282DAFCD6FFEAF", 1210
  30 READ rs, r
                                          1160 DATA "502104FE3418BFCD",855
                                                                                  1430 DATA "CD282D3A76FECD28",965
  40 PRINT a;":-";r$;"=";r
                                          1170 DATA "8C1CCDDAFDCD8C1C", 1217
                                                                                  1440 DATA "ZDCD6ES4CDB7Z4SA",894
                                          1180 DATA "181CCD821C18F3DF",905
                                                                                  1450 DATA "77FECD282DCD6E34", 1030
  60 FOR g=0 TO 7: LET z=FN h(r$): LET r
                                          1190 DATA "1814CD7A1CCDDAFD", 1075
                                                                                  1460 DATA "AFCD6FFE215827D9",1122
$=r$(3 TD)
                                          1200 DATA "CD7A1C1809CD7A1C",743
                                                                                  1470 DATA "C3C9FDCD282DCDB7", 1327
  70 POKE a+g, z
                                          1210 DATA "CDDAFDCDB21CFDCB", 1495
                                                                                  1480 DATA "24C90000000000000",237
  BO LET C=C+z: NEXT 9
                                          1220 DATA "007E284CFD36000B",560
  90 IF CO'THEN PRINT "ERROR IN LINE
                                         1230 DATA "FEOD2B04FE3A2040",719
                                                                                   10 RANDOMIZE USR 64756
 ";1000+((a-64756)*1.25); STOP
                                          1240 DATA "FD3600FFFDCB017E", 1145
                                                                                   20 BORDER 0: PAPER 0: INK 7: CLS
 100 NEXT a
                                         1250 DATA "201221FEFCE521B7", 1034
                                                                                   30 OVER 1: DIM a$ (704)
 110 SAVE "EX. BASIC1"CODE 64756, 388
                                         1260 DATA "12E5C3761B21FEFC", 1126
                                                                                  110 FOR a=1 TO 11: FOR d=6 TO 1 STEP -1
1000 DATA "2A3D5C01FEFC7123",850
                                         1270 DATA "E5C3761B3A04FEB7", 1020
                                                                                  120 PRINT AT 0,0; INK d;a$: LET t=(a*7)
1010 DATA "70093A3A50FE0B28",826
                                         1280 DATA "6F1115FE1889FDCB", 1020
1020 DATA "21FDCB017E200721",688
                                         1290 DATA "007E2814DFFD3600",716
                                                                                  130 *box t,t,175-(2*t),255-(2*t)
1030 DATA "FEFCE5C3B712CD03", 1339
                                         1300 DATA "OBFE20200BFD3600",659
                                                                                  140 NEXT d: NEXT a: FOR a=1 TO 35: PRIN
1040 DATA "13FD3600FF2A595C",804
                                         1310 DATA "FFE7C9D1FD36000A",1213
                                                                                 T AT 0,0; INK RND*7;a$;: NEXT a
1050 DATA "CDA71121FEFCE5C3",1352
                                         1320 DATA "C305FDCDD52D38F3",1215
                                                                                  150 CLS : FOR s=1 TO 6: INK s
1060 DATA "B412AF3204FE215D";807
                                         1330 DATA "20F1C9CDA22D18F6",1156
                                                                                  160 FOR a=(s-1)*B TO s*B STEP 2
1070 DATA "5C35E5DFE1FE2A20",1150
                                         1340 DATA "008EFD99FD94FD9F",1361
                                                                                  170 *BOX a, a, 175-(2*a), 255-(2*a)
1080 DATA "D034DD2119FEDDCB",1217
                                         1350 DATA "FD8BFD81FD7BFD86",1537
                                                                                  180 NEXT a: NEXT s
1090 DATA "007E20C52A5D5CE5",811
                                         1360 DATA "FD1FFE000003424F",686
                                                                                  190 PAUSE O: RUN
1100 DATA "DD4600DFE6DFDD23",1223
                                         1370 DATA "580080CDF7FD3277", 1090
** pass
** errors
                      0
** warnings
                      Ø
                           *PRINTER
                                         ON
FCF4=
                       10
                                    ORG
                                          64756
FCF4 2A3D5C
                       20
                                          HL, (23613);
                                   LD
                                                                Address of bottom of stack
FCF7 Ø1FEFC
                                   LD
                                          BC, START ;
                                                                Start of extended interpreter
FCFA 71
                                   LD
                                           (HL), C
FCFB 23
                                    INC
                                          H
FCFC 70
                                   LD
                                           (HL), B;
                                                                Place START on bottom of stack
FCFD C9
                                    RET
FCFE 3A3A5C
                       30 START: LD
                                           A. (23610)
FDØ1 FEØB
                                          11 ;
                                                                Was error code 11, "Nonsense in BASIC" ?
```

```
JR
                               Z, NONSENSE
FDØ3 2821
FDØ5 FDCBØ17E
                 40 SYNTAX:
                               7: (IY+1) ;
                                              Bit 7 of FLAGS set at runtime
                          BIT
                          JR
                               NZ, RUNERROR
FD09 2007
                                              Syntax error - Place START
                               HL, START ;
FDØB 21FEEC
                                              on bottom of stack for next error
                          PUSH HL :
FDØE E5
                                              Jump back to ROM
                             #12B7 ;
FDØF C3B712
                          JP
                 50 RUNERROR:
FD12 CD0313
                                              Runtime error - Produce error report
                          CALL #1303 ;
                                              Clear ERR NR
                               (IY+0),255;
                          LD
FD15 FD3600FF
                                              Remove floating point forms from line in
ED19 2A5950
                          LD
                               HL, (23641);
                                              editing area before doing a syntax check
                          CALL #11A7 ;
FD1C CDA711
                                              Place START on bottom of
                          LD
                               HL, START ;
FD1F 21FEFC
                                              stack for next error
                          PUSH HL ;
FD22 E5
                                              Jump back to ROM
                          JP
                               #12B4 ;
FD23 C3B412
                 60 NONSENSE:
FD26 AF
                          XOR A
                                              Clear Command code
                          LD
                               (COM), A ;
FD27 3204FE
                                              CH ADD holds address reached by interpreter
                               HL, 23645;
                          LD
FD2A 215D5C
                                              Decrease CH ADD to find character which
                          DEC (HL);
FD2D 35
                          PUSH HL
FD2E E5
                                              caused the error
                          RST #18 :
FD2F DF
                          POP HL
FD30 E1
                                              Was it a star ?
                               ### $
                          CP
FD31 FE2A
                                              Error if not
FD33 20D0
                          JR
                               NZ, SYNTAX ;
                              (HL) ;
                                              Increase CH ADD to point to the next
FD35 34
                          INC
                                               character
                               IX, COMTABLE; Index register, IX, points to Command Table
                          LD
FD36 DD2119FE
                 70 LOOP10:
FD3A DDCB007E
                                               Has the end of the table being reached ?
                               7, (IX+Ø);
                           BIT
                                               Error if it has
                               NZ, SYNTAX ;
FD3E 20C5
                           .TR
                               HL, (23645)
FD40 2A5D5C
                           LD
                                               Save CH ADD
                           PUSH HL ;
FD43 E5
                               B, (IX+Ø) ;
                                               Transfere command length to B
                           LD
FD44 DD4600
                           RST #18
FD47 DF
FD48 E6DF
                 80 LOOP11:
                                               Reset bit 5. Quicker than RES 5.A
                           AND 223 :
                           INC
                                IX
FD4A DD23
                                               Do characters match ?
                                (IX+Ø);
                           CP
FD4C DDBE00
                                               Jump to NEXT if they do not
                           UR
                                NZ, NEXT ;
FD4F 201A
                                               Increase CH ADD next character to A
                           RST #20 :
FD51 E7
                           DJNZ LOOP11
FD52 10F4
                                               Command found
                           LD
                                (IY+0),255;
FD54 FD3600FF
                                               Clear ERR NR and X PTR
                           LD
                                (IY+38),Ø;
 FD58 FD362600
                                               remove CH ADD from stack
                           POP
 FD5C E1
                                               Transfere parameter data to L
                                L. (IX+1) ;
 FD5D DD6E01
                           LD
                                DE: PARTABLE ; Address of Parameter Table
                           LD
 FD60 1105FE
                                H. Ø
 FD63 2600
                     BACK1:LD
                                               Position of address in table
 FD65 19
                           ADD HL, DE ;
                                               Transfere parameter address to DE
                           LD
                                E, (HL) ;
 FD66 5E
 FD67 23
                           INC HL
                           LD
                                D. (HL)
 FD68 56
                                               Exchange DE and HL
                                DE, HL ;
 FD69 EB
                           EX
                                               Jump to contents of HL
                           JP
                                (HL) ;
 FD6A E9
                 100 NEXT :LD
                                C.B
 FD6B 48
                           INC C
 FD6C ØC
                                B. Ø
                           LD
 FD6D 0600
                                               Increase IX to start of next command
                           ADD IX.BC;
 FD6F DDØ9
                           POP
                                HL
 FD71 E1
```

```
FD72 225050
                          LD
                             (23645), HL;
                                                Restore CH ADD
FD75 2104FE
                          LD
                               HL, COM
FD78 34
                             (HL) ;
                          INC
                                                Increase Command code
FD79 18BF
                          JR
                               LOOP10
FD7B CD8C1C
                110 STR2 : CALL #1C8C ;
                                                Two strings after command
FD7E CDDAFD
                         CALL COMMA
FD81 CD8C1C
                    STR1 : CALL #1080 ;
                                               One string after command
FD84 181C
                          JR LINEND
FD86 CD821C
                    STRNUM:
                          CALL #1082 :
                                               One number and string after command
FD89 18F3
                          JR STR2+3
FD8B DF
                    NUMØ : RST #18 :
                                               Nothing after command
FD8C 1814
                          JR LINEND
FD8E CD7A1C
               120 NUM4 : CALL #1C7A :
                                               Four numbers after command
FD91 CDDAFD
                         CALL COMMA
FD94 CD7A1C
                    NUM2 : CALL #107A ;
                                               Two numbers after command
FD97 1809
                          JR LINEND
FD99 CD7A1C
                130 NUM3 : CALL #1C7A :
                                               Three numbers after command
FD9C CDDAFD
                          CALL COMMA
FD9F CD821C
                   NUM1 : CALL #1082 ;
                                               One number after command
FDA2 FDCB007E
                    LINEND:
                         BIT 7, (IY+0):
                                               Has there being an error ?
FDA6 284C
                              Z, SY1 :
                                               Jump if there has
FDA8 FD36000B
                               (IY+0):11
                         LD
FDAC FEAD
                         CP
                              13 ;
                                               Is the next character code 13 or 58, ":" ?
FDAF 2804
                         JR
                              Z, OK
FDBØ FE3A
                         CP
                              58
FDB2 2040
                         JR
                              NZ, SY1;
                                               Error if not
FDB4 FD3600FF
               140 OK
                        :LD
                              (IY+0),255;
                                               Reset ERR NR
FDB8 FDCB017E
                                               Bit 7 of FLAGS set at runtime
                         BIT 7, (IY+1);
FDBC 2012
                         JR
                              NZ, COMMAND
FDBE 21FEFC
                         LD
                              HL, START
FDC1 F5
                         PUSH HL ;
                                               Place START on bottom of stack
FDC2 21B712
                         LD
                              HL, #12B7
FDC5 E5
                         PUSH HL ;
                                               Followed by #12B7
FDC6 C3761B
                         JP
                              #1B76 ;
                                               Jump back to ROM
FDC9 21FEFC
                              HL, START ;
                150 RET
                       :LD
                                               Place START on bottom of stack
FDCC E5
                         PUSH HL
FDCD C3761B
                         JP
                              #1B76 ;
                                               Jump back to ROM
FDDØ 3AØ4FE
                160 COMMAND:
                         LD
                              A. (COM)
FDD3 87
                         ADD A, A;
                                               Calculate position of command address
FDD4 6F
                                               in Address Table
                         LD
                              L:A:
FDD5 1115FE
                         LD
                              DE, ADDTABLE ;
                                               Address to Address Table
FDD8 1889
                         JR
                              BACK1 ;
                                               Jump back to index into Address Table
FDDA FDCB007E
               170 COMMA: BIT
                              7. (IY+0);
                                               Did the last parameter cause an error ?
FDDE 2814
                              Z,SY1 ;
                         JR '
                                               Jump if it did
FDEØ DF
                         RST
                              #18
FDE1 FD36000B
                         LD
                              (IY+0),11
FDE5 FE2C
                         CP
                              " , " ;
                                               Is the character a comma ?
FDE7 200B
                         JR
                              NZ, SY1 ;
                                               Error if not
FDE9 FD3600FF
                              (IY+0),255;
                                               Reset ERR NR
                         LD
FDED E7
                         RST
                              #20;
                                               Increase CH ADD
FDEE C9
                         RET
FDEF D1
                             DE ;
               180 REPB : POP
                                               Drop return address from stack
FDF0 FD36000A
                        LD
                              (IY+0), 10
FDF4 C305FD
                   SY1 :JP
                              SYNTAX
FDF7 CDD52D
                   GETA : CALL #2DD5 ;
                                               Top of calculator stack to A
FDFA 38F3
                   BACK2: JR
                            C. REPB
```

```
JR NZ, REPB;
                                             Number out of range
FDFC 20F1
FDFE C9
                         RET
FDFF CDA22D
                   GETBC: CALL #2DA2 :
                                             Top of calculator stack to BC
FE02 18F6
                         JR BACK2
FE04 00
               190 COM : DEFB 0
FE05 SEFD99FD
    94FD9FFD
    8BFD81FD
     7BFD86FD
                   PARTABLE:
                        DEFW NUM4, NUM3, NUM2, NUM1, NUM0, STR1, STR2, STRNUM
                                               Parameter Table
                                               Contains address of parameter routines
                   ADDTABLE:
FE15 1FFE0000
                                               Address Tabel. Holds addresses of
                   DEFW BOX.0 ;
                                               routines which deal with commands
FE19 Ø3424F58
                   COMTABLE:
     0080
                         DB 3, "BOX", 0, #80; Command Table. Contains command data
                                               Table terminated by 80H. COmmand MUST
                                               be in upper case letters
               260 BOX : CALL GETA
FE1F CDF7FD
                         LD (BLEN), A;
                                              Length of box
FE22 3277FE
FE25 CDF7FD
                         CALL GETA
                                             Height of box
FE28 3276FE
                         LD (BHEI), A;
                         CALL GETA
FE2B CDF7FD
                         LD (23678), A ;
                                              Y position of box
FE2E 327E50
                         CALL GETA ;
                                               X position of box
FE31 CDF7FD
FE34 327D5C
                         LD (23677), A
                         XOR A
FE37 AF
                                               Stack 0
FE38 CD282D
                         CALL #2D28 ;
FE3B 3A76FE
                         LD A, (BHEI)
                                             A=Height Draw first line
FE3E CD6FFE
                         CALL LINE ;
FE41 3A77FE
                         LD A. (BLEN)
               290
                         CALL #2D28 ;
                                             Stack Length
FE44 CD282D
FE47 AF
                         XOR A
                        CALL LINE ;
                                             A=0 Draw second line
FE48 CD6FFE
                         XOR A
FE4B AF
                         CALL #2D28 :
                                              Stack Ø
FE4C CD282D
                       LD A, (BHEI)
FE4F 3A76FE
                         CALL #2D28 ;
                                               Stack Height
FE52 CD282D
                                             Negate top value on stack
FE55 CD6E34
                         CALL #346E ;
                        CALL #24B7 :
                                              Draw third line
FE58 CDB724
FE5B 3A77FE
                         LD A. (BLEN)
                300
                         CALL #2D28 ;
                                             Stack Length
FE5E CD282D
FE61 CD6E34
                         CALL #346E ;
                                               Negate top value on stack
                         XOR A
FE64 AF
                         CALL LINE ;
FE65 CD6FFE
                                               A=Ø Draw last line
FE68 215827
                         LD HL, #2758;
                                             Reset HL' is destroyed by line drawing
FE6B D9
                         EXX
                                              End command
FE6C C3C9FD
                         JP
                             RET ;
FE6F CD282D
               310 LINE : CALL #2D28 ;
                                               Stack value in A
FE72 CDB724
                         CALL #2497
FE75 69
                         RET
FE75 00
               320 BHEI : DEFB 0
FE77 00
               BLEN : DEFB Ø
** pass
                0
** errors
** warnings
```



# BYTES & PIECES

# Screen Wiz

A Kennedy

Load and save your Amstrad CPC screens, to tape, in a compact manner, including details such as the mode, ink and border.

The other utility increases the Baud rate. The commands are :LOADSCREEN, :SAVESCREEN, :SUPERSPEED.

180 PRINT "SAVESCREEN, LOADSCREEN & SUPE 320 DATA 21BF9D1123003E2A 40 MEMORY &9CFF 330 DATA CD9EBC2100C01100 RSPEED RSXs have been installed." 50 A=&9D00 340 DATA 403E2BCD9EBCC921 60 s=0 350 DATA BF9D1123003E2ACD 70 FOR D=1 TO 24 200 DATA 010E9D210A9DCDD1 360 DATA A1BCDD21BF9DDD7E 210 DATA BCC900000000199D 80 READ B\$ 370 DATA OOCDOEBCDD4601DD 90 FOR C=1 TO LEN(B\$) STEP 2 220 DATA C3389DC3779DC3B6 380 DATA 4E02CD38BC0610C5 100 f=VAL("&"+MID\$(B\$,C,2)) 230 DATA 9D53415645534352 390 DATA 783DDD4603DD4E04 240 DATA 4545CE4C4F414453 110 POKE A, f 400 DATA CD32BCDD23DD23C1 250 DATA 43524545CE535550 120 s=s+f 410 DATA 10ED2100C0110040 260 DATA 455253504545C400 130 A=A+1 420 DATA 3E2BCDA1BCC9218C 270 DATA DD21BF9DCD11BCDD 140 NEXT C.D 430 DATA 003E32CD68BCC900 280 DATA 7700CD3BBCDD7001 150 READ E 440 DATA 2064B 160 IF E<>S THEN PRINT "Sorry, Error in 1290 DATA DD71020610C5783D 300 DATA CD35BCDD7003DD71 DATA": END 310 DATA 04DD23DD23C110ED 170 CALL &9D00

# **Status**

Barry Dorrans

This program for the BBC will list the status of the repeat delay and rate, sound, TAB value, ESCAPE, TUBE flag, SPEECH flag,

and available RAM. Simply run the program and the machine code at &900 will be called to give the details.

5009EQUS "SPEECH flag : &" 10SBYTE=&FFF4 370LDA #&EB: JSRfx # H 390LDA #&FE:LDY #&FF:LDX #0:JSR OSBYTE 5010EQUS "RAM 20SWRCH=&FFEE 6000.fx:LDY #&FF:LDX #0:JSR OSBYTE:TXA: 30SNEWL=&FFE7 :LDA #127:JSR OSWRCH:CFX #&BO:BPL modelb JSR printhex: JSR DSNEWL 10FOR pass=0 TO 3 STEP 3 :LDA #&16: JMP ret 7000.print:LDY #0:LDX &80:.ugh:INY:INX: 20P%=&900 391.modelb:LDA #&32 LDA h187, X: JSR OSWRCH: CFY #15: STX &80: BN 3000PT pass 4999.ret:JSR printhex:LDA #ASC"K":JSR D SWRCH: JMP OSNEWL: RTS E ugh: RTS 171LDX #&FF:STX &80:JSR print 10000.printhex PHA:CLC:AND#&F0:RORA 180LDA #&BB: JSRfx 5002.h187:EQUS "BASIC socket: &" 10010RORA: RORA: RORA: JSRnyb: PLA: AND#&F 230LDA #&C4: JSRfx 5003EQUS "Repeat delay: &" 10020.nyb CLC:ADC#48:CMP#58:BCC number 260LDA #&C5: JSRfx 5004EQUS "Repeat rate : &" 280LDA #&D2: JSRfx 5005EQUS "Sound status: &" 10030ADC#6:.number JMP&FFE3 5006EQUS "TAB value : &" 200001: NEXT 310LDA #&DB: JSRfx 30000CALL &900 5007EQUS "(ESC) status: &" 330LDA #&E5: JSRfx 5008EQUS "TUBE flag : &" 350LDA #&EA: JSRfx

# Sound FX

A Kennedy

Four types of sound effect are made easy with this program for the Amstrad CPC range. The effects, and syntax, are :EXPLODE, :BANG, :ZAP, and :PING.

10 ' SOUND FX RSX	150 READ E	270 DATA 0000000F07101010
20 ' by Andrew Kennedy	160 IF E<>S THEN PRINT "Sorry, Error in	280 DATA 001E000000214B9D
30 '	DATA": END	290 DATA C3879D0000000000
40 MEMORY &9CFF	170 CALL &9D00	300 DATA 001F071010100004
50 A=&9D00	180 PRINT "EXPLODE, BANG, PING & ZAP rsxs	310 DATA 00000021779DC387
60 s=0	have been installed."	320 DATA 9D6400C800C90000
70 FOR D=1 TO 20	190 NEW	330 DATA 3B101010001E0000
80 READ B\$	200 DATA 010E9D210A9DCDD1	340 DATA 0021619DC3879DC8
90 FOR C=1 TO LEN(B\$) STEP 2	210 DATA BCC9CBA30E9D1C9D	350 DATA 00C800C800003810
100 f=VAL("&"+MID\$(B\$,C,2))	220 DATA C32F9DC3459DC371	360 DATA 1010001400000006
110 PDKE A, f	230 DATA 9DC35B9D4558504C	370 DATA 00C57E4F7BCD34BD
120 s=s+f	240 DATA 4F44C542414EC75A	380 DATA 23C10478FE0E20F1
130 A=A+1	250 DATA 41D050494EC70021	390 DATA C9,12152
140 NEXT C,D	260 DATA 359DC3879D000000	

# GOOD TIDINGS AND SMALL BILLS

When PCW last looked at Mercury Communications, the service was just becoming available to home and small business users. Savings of between 15 to 20 per cent on phone bills were claimed. Nine months later, Steve Gold looks back at how the system saves him a lot of money on phone bills . . .

t was about a year ago that I first heard that Mercury intended to offer an alternative telephone service to home and small business subscribers. At the time my phone bills from British Telecom were of the order of £800 to £1,000.

A year later – and after being subscriber to the Mercury 2300 service for nine months – my overall bills from Mercury and BT are down £450 a quarter – a saving of about 50% and way above Mercury's claimed call savings.

"How is this?" I hear you ask. Before explaining how, it's important to realise that computer modem users are unlike the average subscribers that Mercury pitches its promotional literature at.

Many modem users make a higher proportion of trunk telephone calls than typical residential customers. This is probably because most bulletin boards are an 'a' or 'b' rate trunk call away. Granted, BT's packet switch stream and Prestel services are available on a local call basis for many UK subscribers, but the majority of modem users have an innate desire to communi-

44 After being a subscriber to the Mercury 2300 nine months, my overall bills from Mercury and BT are down £450 a quarter.

cate with the world - there's something inherently satisfying in communicating with a bulletin board at the other end of the country, rather than just across the city.

### Mercury in perspective

As can be seen from the inset box, the Mercury 2300 service is not a direct replacement for BT services. Subscribers to Mercury must still rent their lines and – in the majority of cases – place local calls via British Telecom. At present, Mercury 2300 subscribers can only achieve call cost savings on trunk and international routes.

For many modem users, however, trunk and international calls account for a major proportion of a telephone bill. Even with Prestel subscriptions all the rage, many modem users still make more than the odd call to bulletin boards several hundred miles distant.

### Personal experience

Take my own bills for example. As a computer journalist (stop laughing at the back) who works from home, I make several calls a day to computer manufacturers, both in the UK and abroad, in a bid to get the news before my competitors.

I also edit frames on Micronet 800 on Prestel, as well as subscribing (and supplying computer news) to several electronic mail services both in the UK and abroad, which runs up the bills.

As a rough guide then, about £20 of my original BT-only bills is/was attributable to line and equipment rental, plus another £80

realise that computer modem users are unlike the subscribers that Mercury pitches its promotional literature at."

or so per quarter for local calls. This still left a further £700 for trunk and international calls – many of which were made outside of the cheap rate periods.

My latest BT quarterly bill cost me about £140 – the extra £40 or so above my rental plus local calls estimate is for the small residue of trunk calls made via BT. My Mercury bills are rendered monthly and directly debited to my Visa credit card as a matter of course. A typical month's charges work out at about £100 – equivalent to £300 for the quarter as a whole.

### The advantages of Mercury

As outlined in my article on Mercury earlier this year, the advantages which accrue from using Mercury 2300 in preference to BT for trunk and international calls include clearer calls, as well as lower call costs.

In addition to this, the Mercury service centre now offers a complete BT-style operator and directory enquiry service. Like BT, Mercury calls to the operator and



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# COMMUNICATIONS

directory enquiry positions are free of charge. Service is much improved over BT's. This is probably due to the relatively low number of subscribers to Mercury 2300 – 10,000 at the last count, but that figure is rising fast.

Still, I now find it possible to get a call to Mercury directory enquiries answered within 20 seconds, regardless of what time of the day or night a call is placed. Compare that to the delays experienced in the late evening or middle of the night for the BT service and I think you'll agree, Mercury directory enquiry service is infinitely better.

Mercury operators are also able to interrogate your billing files at all times – another plus when you want to ask a billing quotation on Sunday morning. Add to that a really friendly service, and the human element of Mercury calls is big plus in the service's favour.

### The disadvantages

Contrary to what you might think from the foregoing, there are still disadvantages in using Mercury 2300 over the BT service for trunk and international calls. These include

- Call delays Using BT, it rarely takes longer than 15 seconds before a tone is heard on an inland direct dialled call either ringing or engaged signals in the vast majority of cases. Because all Mercury 2300 calls must pulse dial the three digit Mercury access code (usually 131), then log onto Mercury using a ten digit ID, calls take an average of 5 to 10 seconds longer to complete via Mercury 2300, than if made via BT. In practice, this delay is only a minor niggle.
- Network failure Because the Mercury network is so new, and relies upon BT to interconnect calls at both ends of the circuit, there is more to go wrong with a typical trunk call. On at least three separate occasions over the past six months the Mercury network has been down for a period of between 20 and 120 minutes. To be fair to Mercury, these failures only occurred at relatively off-peak times Saturday or Sunday mornings. Calls via British Telecom can be made as normal during such times, so telephone service is not entirely unavailable.
- Intermittent network failure Some calls fail because the Mercury access ports on 131 are either engaged or simply ring out. Redialling the call normally solves the problem. For the inexperienced or novice user of Mercury 2300, however, an engaged Mercury port could be construed as the engaged tone on the number dialled.
- Poor quality circuits As can be seen from the network map, Mercury currently covers much of the UK's major centres of population, with extensions into Scotland and the south coast promised by the end of October. Despite such limitations, Mercury

accepts calls to any UK destination, relying on BT circuits to complete the call to areas where Mercury service is not yet available. On some calls to the far north of Scotland and west of Cornwall, call quality is relatively poor and therefore unsuitable for modem use. Such calls – admittedly few and far between – require the use of BT for successful use of a modem. This factor accounts for the extra £40 or so on my quarterly BT phone bill.

Apart from these problems, Mercury 2300 service is far superior to that provided by BT. Eventually, BT will catch up with Mercury, but it will take until at least 1995

### What is Mercury 2300?

The Mercury 2300 service allows residential and small business users to access the Mercury network via existing telephone lines. Provided you have one of the new square pin plugs on your telephone, all you need is a Mercury smart phone (cost £51.95 including VAT), plus a Mercury authorisation ID (£7.50 plus VAT a year).

Once programmed, you use your Mercury phone for all your calls – dialling as usual for local calls (via BT), but pressing the blue 'M' (for Mercury) button in prefix to the trunk and international access codes.

Mercury then bills all your trunk and international calls – individually itemised and costed – each month or quarter. You continue to rent your ordinary phone line from British Telecom, and place local calls via BT as normal. Trunk calls are also available – albeit at greater cost than via Mercury – as normal.

The advantages over BT service – which Mercury only suppliments, not replaces – include call itemisation, lower costs and clearer circuits.

Mercury 2300 service is currently available in most major centres of population (see network map).

before true digital call quality – as seen on Mercury circuits – becomes available on the BT network.

### Call savings explained

As I've already mentioned, Mercury claim typical trunk call savings of between 15 and 25 per cent. In my own case, however, these savings amount to about 50 per cent. After some thought on the matter, I attribute the considerable call savings to the following factors:

● Fewer data errors – Since many of my modem calls involve the use of an error correction protocol – MNP for high-speed modem calls, and Kermit or Xmodem for file transfers – the number of corrupt data

packets is considerably reduced. Mercury circuits rarely give any problems at V23 (1200 baud) or V22bis (2400 baud).

- Faster modem speeds Because Mercury 2300 uses digital-quality circuits, compared with BT's predominantly analogue network, call circuits are better able to support the higher modem speeds such as V22 (1200 baud) and V22bis (2400 baud).
- More incoming calls Because of the faster modem speeds, my home phone line is engaged for shorter periods, allowing more time particularly during office hours for people to call me, instead of leaving messages for me to call them on my London voicebank answerphone.

# Mercury's future enhancements

At the time of writing, Mercury has just completed reciprocal agreements with the telecommunication authorities in Japan and Scandinavia. Further agreements are pending with other international telecommunication authorities

Such agreements open up call savings of as much as 20% over BT call costs on international calls – savings already seen on transatlantic calls to the US and Canada. Currently, Mercury is obliged to hand over much of its international call traffic to BT, allowing it to pass on only a small call savings (between 2 and 4 per cent) as its 'agent's commission' for handling the call.

Retransmission from Mercury to BT can also add to the general line noise and lack of signal quality on international calls. This factor tends to negate the call quality advantages of placing calls over the Mercury national network. Once direct connection between Mercury and the rest of the world is available, better call quality – perhaps to digital standards – will be available.

### Conclusions

In my first article on Mercury, I suggested that anyone with a quarterly telephone bill – modem user or not – in excess of £75 would be well-advised to consider Mercury as an additional extra to their telephone service.

Since that article, I calculate that figure as a little conservative and – allowing for a two year payback period on the £51.59 smart phone – suggest a figure £70 as the point beyond which most modem users would benefit financially from using Mercury 2300.

Even if your phone bill is below the £70 mark – and there can be few modem users with bills at such low levels – the digital call quality benefits to be derived from Mercury 2300 are still worth the investment. Some Hayes-compatible modem users will find that, if their modem has a tone dialling option, then a smart phone is not needed. At £7.50 (plus VAT), Mercury 2300 telephone service is a bargain not to be missed.

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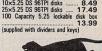
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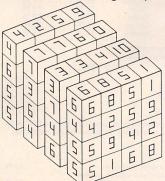






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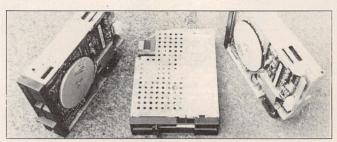
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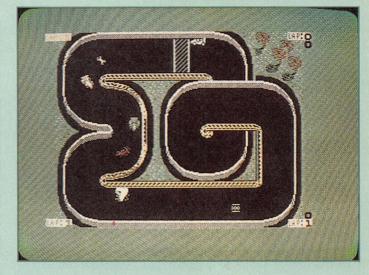
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# Mind how you go round the hoola-hoops



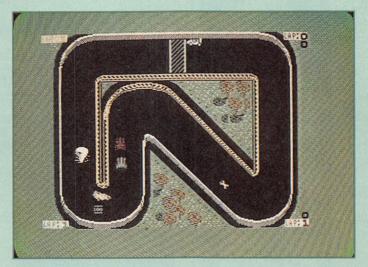
y first reaction when I saw Supersprint loaded up was mild disbelief. Instead of the Pole Position-type game that I was expecting (that presents you with a view of the track from the driver's seat), what I got was an overhead view of a race track with a few tiny little car shapes on it.

Not exactly state-of-the-art. But although the game might initially seem to be a bit unsophisticated it turns out to be surprisingly playable.

You are given a choice of eight tracks of varying difficulty. The simplest of these are basically straight stretches of road joined by a couple of bends, while the hardest ones look like a pile of hoola hoops. Once you've made your choice, a white flag waves and the computer controlled cars ('drones') zoom off around the nearest bend, leaving you wondering what's happening.

Controlling your car is simple; press 'fire' to accelerate, and choose two keys or joystick to control your direction. There are no brakes, but as soon as you stop accelerating you'll find that you slow down pretty quickly. It takes a little bit of practice to get the hang of steering, and

unless you're moving very fast in which case you'll burst into flames. Fortunately you've got three replacement cars which are flown onto the course by helicopter, so all is not lost.



you ought to be careful about how fast you travel at first. If you hit the side of the track you should just bump to a halt, Some of the tracks have underpasses, and you are driving blind as you go through these, so again you'll need a steady hand to keep your car orl" the track.

### Better with two

After a few bumps into the side of the track and a couple of laps in the wrong direction, it occurred to me that it was all quite good fun. Like the recent comeback that the simple shoot 'em up has made, Super Sprint demonstrates that a game can be unsophisticated but still fun. But I should add that like a lot of sports based games, Super Sprint is much better when two people play it together.

As you skid your way around

the various tracks you attempt to avoid a number of obstacles, such as oil slicks and puddles, and there is a tornado (which looks like a fingerprint) which smudges its way across the screen occasionally and blows you all over the place. There are also a number of golden spanners (these look like squashed frogs) which give you bonuses when you collect them. If you collect three or more of these then you gain additional custom car features, such as Turbo acceleration, traction, and a higher top speed, which give you a better chance of winning.

In some ways the overhead view of the track works better than the *Pole Position* type of game, since it gives you a clearer view of what's happening around you, and you're not likely to be surprised by a car appearing from behind you and sending you skidding out of control. On the other hand, it does mean that the size of the track is restricted by the size of the screen display, so the amount of variation in each track is similarly restricted.

But my only real doubt about the game is its price. Any game that costs £9.99 really ought to be pretty spectacular and/or original, and since *Super Sprint* is only another coin-op conversion I think Activision are pushing it a little here.

Cliff Joseph

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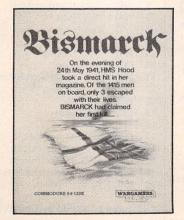
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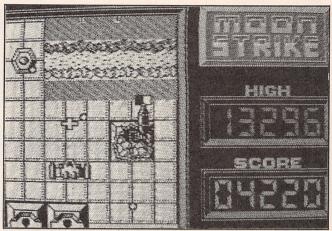
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continued on page 60



oonstrike is a sedate little shoot 'em up, whose chief claim to fame is that some of the nasties that plummet down from the top of the screen are shaped like light bulbs. That aside, it is a competent but not outstanding addition to the massed ranks of zap games.

The format of the game is fairly standard; you fly a small spacecraft over the surface of a planet, which is divided into sectors, attempting to bomb a number of land targets at the same time as dodging or destroying the airborne weapons that are aimed at you. You are armed with two types of weapons, a laser mounted on your wing tips for air to air combat, and bombs for the ground targets. The bombs are aimed with a cursor which moves just in front of you, and pressing the fire button at the same time as pulling back on the joystick releases the bomb. At first, switching between the two weapons was a bit tricky, and caused a lot of lost lives, but you should soon get the hang of it.

The graphics are quite nice, not a lot of colour has been used but that has allowed the programmers to add a lot of detail to the graphics. However there are a few things which cause the game to fall short of shoot 'em up heaven. For a start, only half the screen is used as playing area (the other half is devoted entirely to the score table and Moonstrike logo, which is a bit of a waste) so you don't have very much room to manoeuvre in. And, as the ship doesn't move all that fast, it can get a bit frustrating finding yourself penned in as often as I did. (On one occasion, just as I passed into sector two, a huge '2' flashed onto the screen obscuring what was going on and causing me to get blown up.)

There's a problem with the laser too, as you can only have one set of shells on screen at a time (like the old Space Invaders), and if you miss a target you have to wait for the shell to go off the top of the screen before you can fire again, so you never really get to work up to the frantic pace of the best shoot 'em ups. So, while *Moonstrike* is a fairly professional effort, it doesn't quite reach the sheer speed and addictiveness that you might look for in this type of game.

Stephen Dean

**Program** *Moonstrike* **Type** Arcade **Machine** Spectrum **Price** £7.95 **Supplier** Mirrorsoft, Athena House, 66–73 Shoe Lane, London EC4P 4AB.

# NEW RELEASES

### **◆** continued from page 59

Program Tunnel Vision Type Arcade Price £2.99 Supplier Rack-It, 8-10 Paul Street, London EC2A 4JH.

Program Angleball Type Arcade Price £2.99 Supplier Mastertronic, 8-10 Paul Street, London EC2A 4JH.

Program Streetbeat Type Arcade Price £1.99 Supplier Mastertronic, 8–10 Paul Street, London EC2A 4JH.

Program Bosconian Type Arcade Price £1.99 Supplier Mastertronic, 8-10 Paul Street, London EC2A 4.IH

Program Wizard's Pet Type Arcade Price £2.99 Supplier Mastertronic, 8–10 Paul Street. London EC2A 4JH.

Program Sunburst Type Arcade
Price £2.99 Supplier Hewson,
Hewson House, 56b Milton Trading
Estate, Milton, Abingdon, Oxon
OX14 4RX.

Program Motos Type Arcade Price £2.99 Supplier Mastertronic, 8-10 Paul Street, London EC2A 4JH.

Program Ubik's Music Type Utility Price £2.99 Supplier Firebird, 64-76 New Oxford Street, London WC1A 1PS.

Program Solomon's Key Type Arcade Price £8.99 Supplier US Gold, Units 2/3, Holford Way, Holford, Birmingham B6 7AX.

### Spectrum

Program Scrabble Deluxe Type Board game Price £10.95 for 128K cassette (£15.95 on +3 disc) Supplier Virgin Games, 2-4 Vernon Yard, Portobello Road, London W11 2DX.

Program Game Set and Match Type Sports compilation Price £12.95 (£17.95) Suppliers Ocean, 6 Central Street, Manchester M2 5NS.

Program Beach Head // Type Arcade Price £2.99 Supplier Americana, 8-10 Paul Street, London FC2A 4.IH

Program Angleball Type Arcade Price £2.99 Supplier Mastertronic, 8-10 Paul Street, London EC2A 4JH.

Program Saracen Type Arcade Price £2.99 Supplier Americana, 8-10 Paul Street, London EC2A 4JH.

Program Jet Pac Type Arcade Price £1.99 Supplier Ricochet, 8-10 Paul Street, London EC2A

Program Xevious Type Arcade Price £2.99 Supplier Americana, 8-10 Paul Street, London EC2A 4JH.

Program Ocean Conqueror Type Arcade Price £2.99 Supplier Rack-It, 8-10 Paul Street, London EC2A

Program Super Nova Type Arcade Price £1.99 Supplier Players, Calleva Park, Aldermaston, Berks.

Program Draughts Genius Type Arcade Price £2.99 Supplier Racklt, 8–10 Paul Street, London EC2A 4.IH.

Program Rescue Type Arcade Price £1.99 Supplier Mastertronic, 8-10 Paul Street, London EC2A 4JH.

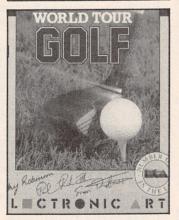
Program Bosconian Type Arcade Price £1.99 Supplier Mastertronic, 8-10 Paul Street, London EC2A 4.IH

Program Car Wars Type Arcade Price £2.99 Supplier Firebird, 64–76 New Oxford Street, London WC1A 1PS.

Program Play It Again Sam Type Arcade Price £2.99 Supplier Mastertronic, 8–10 Paul Street, London EC2A 4JH.

Program Pageant of Life Type Board game Price £8.95 Supplier Softfirm, 21 Ashbourne Way, Thatcham, Berks.

# IBM PC and Compatibles



Program World Tour Golf Type Sport simulation Price £19.95 Supplier Electronic Arts, Langley Business Centre, 11–49 Station Road, Langley, Nr Slough, Berks SL3 8YN.

Program Arctic Fox Type Arcade Price £19.95 Supplier Electronic Arts, Langley Business Centre, 11–49 Station Road, Langley, Nr Slough, Berks SL3 8YN.

Program Marble Madness Type Arcade Price £19.95 Supplier Electronic Arts, Langley Business Centre, 11–49 Station Road, Langley, Nr Slough, Berks SL3 8YN. You can tell when Christmas is coming because all of last year's big hits start to crop up on compilations. The first of this year's batch arrived with Elite's 6-Pak Volume 2.

Out of the six games five are re-releases, while one, Batty, is unreleased. This isn't very surprising when you realise that Batty is actually a Breakout clone along the lines of Arkanoid. It has all the bonus features found in Arkanoid (slow ball, laser, extra lives) as well as the addition of a ball which turns into a fireball, destroying everything in its path. Unoriginal but enjoyable.

Another clone on the tape is Pandora's Eagle's Nest. This is one of the best of the recent Gauntlet clones, in fact it's so good and so recent that I'm surprised to find it on a compilation so soon. It puts the action in a World War II scenario rather than the usual fantasy setting, but the game is still good old Gauntlet.

ACE is about the oldest game on the tape. Flight simulators normally bore me silly, but this is more of an action game than a simulator so it's thumbs up for ACE. Endurance's International Karate is also one of the better examples of its type. You've got about sixteen different moves to master, so you'll need to be totally ambidextrous, but it's all good inscrutable fun if you can master it.

FTL's Shockway Rider is the only game that I'm not totally enthusiastic about. It's an odd game that reminds me of a sci-fi story I read ages ago. You are travelling along a series of moving walkways, some of which move at higher speeds. Your aim is to travel through twelve districts, fighting street gangs and dodging lanes.

On the other hand, the second FTL game, *Lightforce*, is probably the highlight of the compilation. This is far and away my favourite shoot 'em up of all time. It's fast, furious, colourful and totally wonderful.

Obviously the value of any compilation depends upon how many of the games you've already got. But if you don't already have these games then 6-Pak Vol. 2 is excellent value.

Stephen Dean

**Program** 6-Pak Volume 2 **Type** Compilation **Machine** Amstrad CPC, C64, Spectrum **Price** £9.95 all cassettes (£14.95 C64 and CPC disc) **Supplier** Elite, Anchor House, Anchor Road, Aldridge, Walsall, West Midlands.

# CHARTS

# **Top Twenty**

1	(1)	Run for Gold	Alternative
2	(3)	BMX Simulator	Code Masters
3	(2)	Paperboy	Elite
4	(8)	Super Robin Hood	Code Masters
5	(9)	Cricket International	Alternative
	(4)	Milk Race	Mastertronic
6	(7)	Destructo	Bulldog
8	(6)	Road Runner	US Gold
9	(11)	Soccer Boss	Alternative
10	(31)	Joe Blade	Players
11	(12)	World Class Leaderboard	Access-US Gold
12	(14)	Living Daylights	Domark
13	(13)	Barbarian	Palace
14	(32)	Decathlon	Firebird
15	(5)	Exolon	Hewson
16	(15)	International Karate	Endurance
17	(25)	Olympic Spectacular	Alternative
18	(22)	Back To The Future	Firebird
19	(37)	Tournament Leaderboard	Access-US Gold
20	(30)	ATV-Simulator	Code Masters

All figures compiled by Gallup/Computer Trade Weekly

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Juki 6200  PRINTER ACCESSORIES  Epson LX80 86 Tractor Unit Epson LX80 86 Sheef Feeder Juki 6100 E200 Tractor Feeder Juki 6100 E200 Sheef Feeder Citizen 1200 Sheef Feeder  EXTERNAL CENTRONICS TY  Commodore 64 — Citizen 1200 Kempston interface— Erom based for Spectrum  QL Centronics interface.	£25 £65 £159 £220 £105 PE £55 £39.95	Back Pack Fast Basic GFA Basic Compiler 1st Word Plus Devpac Saved Saved Fast Basic (Disk) Fast Basic (Disk) Beaurocracy Enchanter Hitch Hikers Guide to Galaxy Hichlywood Hijirix Leather Goodsess of Phobos Soroere Sprellbranker	Conjuter Concepts Computer Concepts Glentop Glentop GST Hisoft Hisoft Computer Concepts Infocom Infoco	£45.00 £81.00 £54.00 £54.00 £72.00 £44.95 £23.50 £40.00 £26.95 £26.95 £26.95 £26.95 £26.95	Delta 4.3 Dac-Base Dac-Base Superbase Personal (Gem) Rethrieve GBase (Gem) SSI Data Tas Plus  ENTERTAINM ADVENTURE GAMES Portal  ADVENTURE GAMES	Compsoft	£41.00 £81.00 £41.00 £81.00 £95.00 £81.00 £183.00 £93.00	Dac Easy Port FI Modula 2 The Knife-86 Learning DOS Quick Basic Bookmark Fastback Turbo C Turbo Pascal Database Sideways  WORD PRC Mindraader Executive Wordstar 1512	Dac Hisoft Hisoft Hisoft Hisoft Hisoft Hisoft Hisoft Microsoft Microsoft Microsoft Intellisoft Sth Generation Borland Borland Funk Software CESSORS Advance Amsoft Hisoft Hisoft Hisoft Hisoft Hisoft Hisoft Hisoft Hisoft His	£39.00 £45.00 £25.00 £25.00 £70.00 £64.00 £162.00 £46.00 £46.00 £45.00
Juki 6200  PRINTER ACCESSORIES  Epson LX80 86 Tractor Unit Epson LX80 86 Sheet Feeder Juki 6100 6200 Tractor Feeder Juki 6100 6200 Sheet Feeder Citizen 1200 Sheet Feeder EXTERNAL CENTRONICS TY Commodore 64 — Citizen 1200 Kempston interface-E Rom based for Spectrum	£25 £65 £159 £220 £106 PE £55 £39.95	Back Pack Fast Basic GFA Basic Compiler 1st Word Plus Devpaic Saved Save	Conjuter Concepts Computer Concepts Glentop Glentop Glentop GST Hisoft Hisoft Hisoft Infocom I	£45.00 £31.00 £54.00 £72.00 £44.95 £22.50 £40.00 £31.50 £26.95 £2	Delta 4.3 Dac-Base Dac-Base Superbase Personal (Gem) Rethrieve GBase (Gem) SSI Data Tas Plus  ENTERTAINM ADVENTURE GAMES Portal  ADVENTURE GAMES	Compsoft	£41.00 £81.00 £41.00 £81.00 £95.00 £81.00 £183.00 £93.00	Dac Easy Port FI Modula 2 The Knife-86 Learning DOS Ouick Basic Bookmark Fastback Turbo Gascal Database Sideways WORD PRO Mindreader Executive Wordstar 1512	Dac Hisoft Hisoft Hisoft Hisoft Hisoft Hisoft Microsoft Microsoft Intellisoft Shi Generation Borland Borland Borland Horles Software DOCESSORS Advance Amsoft GST	£39.00 £45.00 £25.00 £25.00 £70.00 £84.00 £162.00 £86.00 £46.00 £45.00 £45.00
Juki 6200  PRINTER ACCESSORIES  Epson LV80 86 Tractor Unit Epson LV80 86 Tractor Unit Epson LV80 86 Tractor Feeder Juli 6 100 2000 Street Feeder Juli 6 100 2000 Street Feeder Chitzen 1200 Street Feeder EXTERNAL CENTRONICS TY  Commodore 64 — Citizen 1200 Kempston interface—E nom based for Spectrum OL Centronics interface Tripler 20 64 for CB VIC20 84	£25 £65 £159 £220 £105 PE £55 £39.95	Back Pack Fast Basic GFA Basic Compiler 1st Word Plus Devpac Saved Fast Basic (Disk) Beaurocracy Enchanter Hitch Hikers Guide to Galaxy Hollywood Hijmx Laather Godesses of Phobos Soncere Special Compiler Special Compiler	Co.nguter Concepts Computer Concepts Glentop Glentop Glentop Hisort Hisort Computer Concepts Infocom I	£45.00 £31.00 £54.00 £54.00 £72.00 £44.96 £42.50 £40.00 £36.95 £3	Delta 4.3 Dac-Base Dac-Base Superhase Personal (Gem) Retrieve GBase (Gem) SSI Data Tas Plus  ENTERTAINM ADVENTURE GAMES Portal Dragonworld Fahrenheid 45 Nine Princes in Amber Ballyhoo	Compset DAC DAC Precision Sage SPI SSI Tas  ENT SOFTWA  Activision Audiogenic Audiogenic Audiogenic Audiogenic Audiogenic Audiogenic	E41.00 E21.00 E21.00 E21.00 E21.00 E22.00 E22.00 E22.50 E22.50 E18.00 E18.00 E18.00 E18.00 E18.00 E18.00 E18.00	Dac Easy Port FI Modula 2 The Knille-86 Learning DOS Quick Basic Bookmark Fastback Turbo 0 Turbo Pascal Database Sideways WORD PRO Mindreader Executive Wordstar 1512 First Word Plus Volkswriter 3 Word Junior	Dac Hisoft Hisoft Hisoft Hisoft Hisoft Hisoft Hisoft Microsoft Microsoft Microsoft Intellisoft Sth Generation Borland Borland Funk Software CESSORS Advance Amsoft Hisoft Hisoft Hisoft Hisoft Hisoft Hisoft Hisoft Hisoft His	239.00 245.00 225.00 225.00 225.00 25.00 270.00 264.00 2162.00 245.00 245.00 245.00 265.00 265.00 265.00 265.00 265.00 265.00 265.00 265.00 265.00 265.00
Juki 6200  PRINTER ACCESSORIES  Epson LV80 86 Tractor Unit Epson LV80 86 Tractor Unit Epson LV80 86 Sheef Feeder Juli 6100 2200 Sheef Feeder Juli 6100 2200 Sheef Feeder Critzen 1200 Sheef Feeder  EXTERNAL CENTRONICS TY Commodore 64 — Critzen 1200 Kempston interface-E from based for Spectrum OL Centronics interface Tripler 20 64 for CB VIC20 64  PRINTER RIBBONS	225 £65 £159 £220 £105 £105 £55 £39.95 £20 £50	Back Pack Fast Basic GFA Basic Compiler 1st Word Plus Devpac Saved Fast Basic (Disk) Beaurocracy Enchanter Hitch Hikers Guide to Galaxy Hollywood Hijimx Leather Godesses of Phobos Sorocere Trinity Wishbringer Prohibition K Spread 2	Computer Concepts Computer Concepts Glentop Glentop Glentop Glentop Glentop GST Hisoft Computer Concepts Infocom Infoc	£45.00 £31.00 £54.00 £54.00 £72.00 £44.95 £42.95 £40.00 £31.50 £26.95 £26.95 £26.95 £26.95 £26.95 £26.95 £26.95 £3	Deta 4.3 Dac-Base Dac-Base Superbase Personal (Gem) Rethreve GBase (Gem) SSI Data Tas Plus  ENTERTAINM ADVENTURE GAMES Portal Dragorword Fahrenheit 451 Nine Princes in Amber Ballyhoo	Compsoft DAC DAC Procision Sage SPI SSI Tas Activision Audiogenic Audiogenic Audiogenic Infocom Infocom	£41.00 £31.00 £41.00 £95.00 £95.00 £93.00 £93.00 £93.00 £18.00 £18.00 £18.00 £18.00 £18.00 £18.00 £18.00	Dac Easy Port FI Modula 2 The Knille-86 Learning DOS Quick Basic Bookmark Fastback Turbo 0 Turbo Pascal Database Sideways WORD PRO Mindreader Executive Wordstar 1512 First Word Plus Volkswriter 3 Word Junior	Dac Hisoft Hisoft Hisoft Hisoft Hisoft Hisoft Hisoft Microsoft Microsoft Microsoft Intellisoft 5th Generation Borland Borland Funk Software Punk Software GST Lifetree Microsoft Sape Micr	239.00 245.00 225.00 225.00 255.00 255.00 2684.00 2684.00 2686.00 246.00 246.00 246.00 246.00 2686.00
Juki 6200  PRINTER ACCESSORIES  Epson LX80 66 Tractor Unit Epson LX80 66 Tractor Unit Epson LX80 66 Sheet Feeder Juki 6100 6200 Tractor Feeder Juki 6100 6200 Sheet Feeder Citizen 1200 Sheet Feeder  EXTERNAL CENTRONICS TY  Commodore 64 — Citizen 1200  Kempston interface— Enom based for Spectrum OL Centronics interface Tripler 20 64 for C9 WC20 64  PRINTER RIBBONS  Amstrad PCW8256	£25 £65 £159 £220 £105 <b>PE</b> £55 £39.95 £20 £50	Back Pack Fast Basic GFA Basic Compiler 1st Word Plus Devpac Saved Fast Basic (Disk) Beaurocracy Enchanter Hitch Hikers Guide to Galaxy Hilly Hikers Guide to Galaxy Hilly Hikers Guide to Galaxy Hilly Hikers Guide to Galaxy Willy Hilly Hilly Hilly Hilly Hilly Hilly Wishbringer Frohibition K Spread 2 Megamax C Assembler	Computer Concepts Computer Concepts Glentop Glentop Glentop Glentop Glentop GST Hisoft Computer Concepts Infocom Infoc	£45.00 £31.00 £54.00 £54.00 £72.00 £44.95 £42.95 £40.00 £31.50 £26.95 £26.95 £26.95 £26.95 £26.95 £26.95 £26.95 £3	Detta 4.3 Dac-Base Superbase Personal (Gem) Rethreve GBase (Gem) SSI Data Tas Plus  ENTERTAINM ADVENTURE GAMES Portal Dragometrid Fatherhet 4.0 Tas Plus Dragometrid Dragometrid Enterhetric State Ballyfroo B	Compset DAC DAC Precision Sage SPI SSI Tas - Tas - Authorian - Audogenic - Audogenic - Audogenic - Audogenic - Infocom	£41.00 £81.00 £41.00 £81.00 £81.00 £81.00 £81.00 £81.00 £183.00 £1	Dac Easy Port FI Modula 2 The Knife-86 Learning DOS Quick Basic Bookmark Fastback Turbo C. Turbo Pascal Database Sideways Mindreader Executive Wordstar 1512 First Word Plus Volkswriter 3 Word Junior PC Write Wordsdreft Unior	Dac Hisoft Hisoft Hisoft Hisoft Hisoft Hisoft Hisoft Microsoft Microsoft Intelligent Hisoft His	239.00 245.00 225.00 275.00 275.00 284.00 284.00 284.00 246.00 245.00 245.00 245.00 265.00
Juki 6200  PRINTER ACCESSORIES Esson LV80 86 Tractor Unit Epon LV80 86 Tractor Unit Epon LV80 86 Street Feeder Juki 6100 5000 Steet Feeder Juki 6100 5000 Steet Feeder Gritten 1200 Sheet Feeder EXTERNAL CENTRONICS TY Commodore 64 — Citizen 1200 Kempston Interface From based for Spectrum QL Centronics Interface Tripler 20 64 for GB VIC20 64  PRINTER RIBBONS Amstrad PCW8256 Brother EP44 Fronther LV86 Brother EP44 Fronther LV86 Brother EP44 Fronther LV86 Brother EP44 Fronther LV86 Brother EP45	£25 £65 £159 £220 £105 PE £55 £39.95 £20 £50	Back Pack Fast Basic GFA Basic Compiler 1st Word Plus Devpac Saved Fast Basic (Disk) Beaurocracy Enchanter Hitch Hikers Guide to Galaxy Hilly Wood Hijmx Laather Godesses of Phobos Soncere Special Compiler Wishbringer Prohibition K Spread 2 Megamax C Assembler BCPL Cambridge Uso	Co.nputer Concepts Computer Concepts Glentop Glentop Glentop Hisoft Computer Concepts Infocom	£45.00 £31.00 £31.00 £54.00 £54.00 £72.00 £44.95 £22.50 £40.00 £31.50 £31.50 £26.95 £26.95 £26.95 £26.95 £26.95 £11.50 £26.95 £26.95 £26.95 £26.95 £26.95	Detta 4.3 Dac-Base Superbase Personal (Gem) Rethreve GBase (Gem) SSI Data Tas Plus  ENTERTAINM ADVENTURE GAMES Portal Dragometrid Fatherhet 4.0 Tas Plus Dragometrid Dragometrid Enterhetric State Ballyfroo B	Compset DAC DAC Precision Sage SPI SSI Tas - Tas - Authorian - Audogenic - Audogenic - Audogenic - Audogenic - Infocom	£41.00 £81.00 £41.00 £81.00 £95.00 £183.00	Dac Easy Port FI Modula 2 The Knille-86 Learning DOS Ouick Basic Bookmark Fastback Turbo 0 Turbo Pascal Database Sideways WORD PRC Mindreader Executive Wordstar 1512 First Word Plus Wordbarfet Limino Wordparfect Personal Wordparfect Junion Wordparfect Junion	Dac Hisoft Hisoft Hisoft Hisoft Hisoft Hisoft Hisoft Microsoft Microsoft Intelligent Hisoft Borland Borland Borland Borland Borland Borland Hunk Software Microsoft GST Lifetre Microsoft Sage SSI SSI SSI SSI SSI SSI SSI SS	230.00
Juki 6200  PRINTER ACCESSORIES  Epson LV80 86 Tractor Unit	225 £65 £159 £220 £105 PE £55 £39.95 £20 £50 £50	Back Pack Fast Basic GFA Basic Compiler 1st Word Plus Devpac Saved Fast Basic (GFA Basic Compiler 1st Word Plus Devpac Saved Fast Basic (Disk) Beaurocracy Enchanter Hitch Hikers Guide to Galaxy Hollywood Hijimx Leather Godesses of Phobos Sorcerer Spelibreaker Trinity Wishbringer Prohibition K Spread 2 Megamax C Assembler BCPL Cambridge Lisp Lattice C Lattice C	Computer Concepts Computer Concepts Gentop Infocom In	£45.00 £81.00 £54.00 £72.00 £44.95 £23.50 £40.00 £31.50 £31.50 £26.95 £26.95 £26.95 £26.95 £31.50 £3	Detta 4.3 Dac-Base Dac-Base Superbase Personal (Gem) Rethreve GBase (Gem) SSI Data Tas Plus  ENTERTAINM ADVENTURE GAMES Portal Dragorworld Fahrenheit 451 Nine Princes in Amber Ballyhoo Ballyhoo Beddine Enchanter Invisicuses Enchanter Invisicuses Hitchikkers Guide to Galavy Leather Godesses of Phobos	Compsoft DAC DAC Procision Sage SPI SSI Tas Activision Audiogenic Audiogenic Audiogenic Infocom Infoco	£41.00 £31.00 £31.00 £31.00 £31.00 £31.00 £31.00 £31.00 £31.00 £30.00	Dac Easy Port FI Modula 2 The Knife-86 Learning DOS Quick Basic Bookmark Fastback Turbo C Turbo Pascal Database Sideways  WORD PRC Wordstar 1512 First Word Plus Volkswriter 3 Word Junior PC Write Wordperfect Unior Wordperfect Desoral Wordperfect Desoral Wordperfect Desoral Tasword PC	Dac Hisoft Hisoft Hisoft Hisoft Hisoft Hisoft Microsoft Intellisoft Microsoft Intellisoft Stripe Hisoft His	
Juki 6200  PRINTER ACCESSORIES  Epson LV80 86 Tractor Unit	225 £65 £159 £200 £105 £105 £29.95 £20 £55 £20 £55 £20 £230 £2.30 £2.30 £2.30 £2.30 £2.30 £2.30 £2.30 £2.30	Back Pack Fast Basic GFA Basic Compiler 1st Word Plus Devgac Saved Fast Basic (Disk) Beauroonary Enchanter Hitch Hikers Guide to Galaxy Hollywood Hijinx Lashier Godesses of Phobos Socrete Wishbringer Prohibition K Spread 2 Megamax C Assembler BCPL Cambridge Lisp Lattice C Make	Co.nputer Concepts Computer Concepts Glentop Glentop Glentop Glentop Glentop Glentop Hisoft Hisoft Hisoft Hisoft Hisoft Hisocom Infocom Infoco	£45.00 £31.00 £34.00 £54.00 £54.00 £72.00 £44.95 £22.50 £40.95 £23.50 £31.50 £26.95 £26.95 £26.95 £26.95 £26.95 £26.95 £26.95 £26.95 £26.95 £26.95 £26.95	Delta 4.3 Dac-Base Dac-Base Superbase Personal (Gem) Rethreve GBase (Gem) SSI Data Tas Plus  ENTERTAINM ADVENTURE GAMES Portal Dragonworld Fahrenheit 451 Nine Princes in Amber Ballyhoo Enchanter Invisicues Enchanter Invisicues Hitchikkers Guide to Galavy Moormist Moormist Moormist Honetal	Compset DAC DAC Precision Sage SPI SSI Tas Activision Audiogenic Audiogenic Audiogenic Infocom	£41.00 £81.00 £81.00 £81.00 £81.00 £81.00 £83.00 £83.00 £83.00 £183.00 £183.00 £18.00 £18.00 £18.00 £27.00 £21.00 £27.00 £27.00 £27.00 £27.00 £27.00 £27.00 £27.00 £27.00 £27.00	Dac Easy Port FI Modula 2 The Knile-86 Learning DOS Ouick Basic Bookmark Fastback Turbo C Pascal Database Sideways  WORD PRC Mindreader Executive Wordstar 1512 First Pascal Database Footback Word Juns Word Juns Word Juns Word Juns Footback Word Juns Footback Fastback Footback Word Juns Footback Foot	Dac Hisoft Hisoft Hisoft Hisoft Hisoft Hisoft Hisoft Microsoft Microsoft Intelligent Hisoft Borland Borland Borland Borland Borland Borland Hunk Software Microsoft GST Lifetre Microsoft Sage SSI SSI SSI SSI SSI SSI SSI SS	230.00
Juki 6200  PRINTER ACCESSORIES Esson LV80 86 Tractor Unit Esson LV80 88 Tractor Unit Esson LV80 88 Street Freder Juki 6100 6200 Trotter freder Juki 6100 6200 Street Freder Citizen 1200 Sheet Feeder Citizen 1200 Sheet Feeder EXTERNAL CENTRONICS TY Commodore 64 — Citizen 1200 Kampston Interface—From based for Spectrum QL Centronics Interface Tripler 20 64 for CB VIC20 64  PRINTER RIBBONS Amstrad PCW8256 Brother EP44 Brother HR5 Brother M1009 Centronics GLP Caron Kaga Tazan CBM MPS801 CBM MPS801 CITIZEN 1200	£25 £65 £159 £220 £105 £230 £55 £20 £550 £2.30	Back Pack Fast Basic GFA Basic Compiler 1st Word Plus Devpac Saved Fast Basic (FA Basic Compiler 1st Word Plus Devpac Saved Fast Basic (Disk) Beaurocracy Enchanter Hitch Hikers Guide to Galaxy Hollywood Hijmx Laather Godesses of Phobos Soncere Spelbreaker Spelbreaker Wishbringer Prohibition K Spread 2 Megamar C Assembler BCPL Cambridge Lisp Lattice C Make MCC Pascal	Co.nguter Concepts Computer Concepts Glentop Glentop Glentop Glentop Glentop Glentop Hisoft Hisoft Computer Concepts Infocom I	£45.00 £81.00 £84.00 £72.00 £44.95 £23.50 £44.95 £23.50 £26.95 £2	Delta 4.3 Dac-Base Dac-Base Superhase Personal (Gem) Retrieve GBase (Gem) SSI Data Tas Plus  ENTERTAINM ADVENTURE GAMES Portal Dragonworld Fahrenheit 45 Nine Princes in Amber Bailyhoo Deadline Enchanter Enchanter Invisiclues Hitchikikers Guide to Galaxy Leather Godesses of Phobos Moornist Planettall Seastalkier	Compset DAC DAC Precision Sage SPI SSI Tas  - Activision - Activision - Audiogenic - Audiogenic - Audiogenic - Infocom - Infoc	£41.00 £81.00 £81.00 £95.00 £95.00 £95.00 £95.00 £93.00	Dac Easy Port FI Modula 2 The Knile-86 Learning DOS Quick Basic Bookmark Fastback Turbo C Turbo Pascal Database Sideways  WORD PRO Mindreader Executive Wordstar 1512 First Word Plus Volkswriter 3 Word-perfect Unior Wordperfect Unior Wordperfect Ubray Tasword PC Tasyoni PC Tasyoni PC Tasyoni PC Tasyoni PC Tasyoni PC Tasyoni PC Wordperfect Tasyoni PC Wordperfect Tasyoni PC Tasyoni PC Wordperfect Wordperfect Tasyoni PC Wordperfect Wordperfect Wordperfect Wordperfect Wordperfect Wordperfect Wordperfect Wordperfect Wordperfect	Dac Hisoft Hisoft Hisoft Hisoft Hisoft Hisoft Hisoft Microsoft Microsoft Intelligent Hisoft His	\$29.00
Juki 6200  PRINTER ACCESSORIES  Epson LV80 86 Tractor Unit	225 £159 £220 £105 £105 £220 £105 £39.95 £230 £50 £230 £2.30 £2.30 £2.30 £2.30 £2.99 £3.80 £2.99 £3.80 £2.99 £3.80 £2.99 £3.80 £2.90 £3.80 £2.90 £3.80	Back Pack Fast Basic GFA Basic Compiler 1st Word Plus Devpac Saved Fast Basic GFA Basic Compiler 1st Word Plus Devpac Saved Fast Basic (Disk) Beaurocracy Enchanter Hitch Hikers Guide to Galaxy Hollywood Hijimx Leather Godesses of Phobos Sorcerer Spelibreaker Trinity Wishbringer Prohibition K Spread 2 Megamax C Assembler BCPL Cambridge Lisp Lattice C Make MCC Pascal Menu + Goldrunner	Co. puter Concepts Computer Concepts Glentop Glentop GST Hisoft Hisoft Computer Concepts Infocom Infoc	£45.00 £54.00 £54.00 £54.00 £54.00 £54.00 £54.00 £54.00 £54.00 £54.00 £54.00 £54.00 £54.00 £54.50 £54.50 £54.50 £54.50 £54.50 £55.95 £56.95 £5	Delta 4.3 Dac-Base Dac-Base Superbase Personal (Gem) Rethreve GBase (Gem) SSI Data Tas Plus  ENTERTAINM ADVENTURE GAMES Portal Dragonworld Fahrenheit 451 Nine Princes in Amber Ballyhoo Enchanter Invisicues Enchanter Invisicues Hitchikkers Guide to Galavy Moormist Moormist Moormist Honetal	Compset DAC DAC Precision Sage SPI SSI Tas Activision Audiogenic Audiogenic Audiogenic Infocom	£41.00 £81.00 £91.00 £95.00 £95.00 £95.00 £93.00 £93.00 £18.00 £18.00 £18.00 £18.00 £27.00 £21.00 £21.00 £21.00 £27.00 £27.00 £27.00 £27.00 £27.00 £27.00 £27.00 £27.00 £27.00 £27.00 £27.00 £27.00 £27.00 £27.00 £27.00 £27.00	Dac Easy Port FI Modula 2 The Knile-86 Learning DOS Quick Basic Bookmark Fastback Turbo C Turbo Pascal Database Sideways  WORD PRO Mindreader Executive Wordstar 1512 First Word Plus Volkswriter 3 Word-perfect Unior Wordperfect Unior Wordperfect Ubray Tasword PC Tasyoni PC Tasyoni PC Tasyoni PC Tasyoni PC Tasyoni PC Tasyoni PC Wordperfect Tasyoni PC Wordperfect Tasyoni PC Tasyoni PC Wordperfect Wordperfect Tasyoni PC Wordperfect Wordperfect Wordperfect Wordperfect Wordperfect Wordperfect Wordperfect Wordperfect Wordperfect	Dac HISoft HISOft HISOFT HISOFT HISOFT HISOFT HISOFT Microsoft Microsoft Microsoft Intellisoft HISOFT HISOF	\$29.00
Juki 6200  PRINTER ACCESSORIES  Epson LV80 86 Tractor Unit	£25 £155 £220 £105 £105 £105 £20 £55 £20 £55 £20 £55 £230 £2.30 £2.39 £2.39 £2.39 £3.85 £3	Back Pack Fast Basic GFA Basic Compiler 1st Word Plus Devpac Saved Fast Basic Compiler 1st Word Plus Devpac Saved Fast Basic (Disk) Beaurocracy Enchanter Hitch Hikers Guide to Galaxy Hollywood Hight Sorcerer Spelbreaker Timity Wishbringer Wishbri	Co. puter Concepts Computer Concepts Glentop Glentop Glentop Glentop Glentop Glentop Hisoft Hisoft Computer Concepts Infocom I	£45.00 £81.00 £84.00 £72.00 £44.95 £23.50 £44.95 £23.50 £26.95 £2	Delta 4.3 Dac-Base Superbase Personal (Gem) Rethreve GBase (Gem) SSI Data Tas Plus  ENTERTAINM  ADVENTURE GAMES Portal Dragormorfd Fahrenheit 451 Nine Princes in Amber Ballyhoo Beadline Enchanter Invisiouse Hitchikkers Guide to Galavy Leather Godesses of Probos Moonmist Planettal Seastalker Trinity Wishbringer Zork 1	Compset DAC DAC Precision Sage SPI SSI Tas	£41.00 £81.00 £81.00 £95.00 £95.00 £95.00 £93.00	Dac Easy Port FI Modula 2 The Knile-86 Learning DOS Quick Basic Bookmark Fastback Turbo Pascal Database Sideways  WORD PRC  Word Plus Wordstar 1512 First Word Plus Wordsparfect Lunior Wordparfect Personal Wordparfect Personal Wordparfect Description Wordparfect Lunior Wordparfect Description Wordparfect Lunior Wordparfect Lunior Wordparfect Company Wordparfect Lunior Wordparfect Personal Wordparfect Description Wordparfect Lunior Wordparfect Luni	Dac Hisoft Hisoft Hisoft Hisoft Hisoft Microsoft Microsoft Intelligent Hisoft Microsoft Intelligent Hisoft His	239.00 245.00 225.00 225.00 270.00 270.00 270.00 270.00 280.00
Juki 6200  PRINTER ACCESSORIES Esson LX80 86 Tractor Unit Epoon LX80 86 Tractor Unit Epoon LX80 86 Sheef Feeder Juli 6 100 5200 Sheef Feeder Juli 6 100 5200 Sheef Feeder Gattern 1200 Sheef Feeder EXTERNAL CENTRONICS TY Commodore 84 — Citizen 1200 Kempaten Interface From based for Spectrum QL Centronics Interface Tripler 20 64 for CB VIC20 64  PRINTER RIBBONS Amstrad PCW8256 Brother EP44 Brother HR4 Brother HR4 Brother HR4 Brother HR4 Brother HR5 Brother M1009 Centronics GLP Caron Kapa Taxan CBM MPS801 CITIZEN 1200 DMP 2000 3000 Epoon MX FM RX80 Epoon MX FM RX80 Luki 6100 Single strike	225 £65 £159 £220 £105 PE £55 £39.95 £29 £50 £2.90 £2.90 £3.80 £2.90 £3.80 £5 £5 £5 £5 £5 £5 £2.90 £2.	Back Pack Fast Basic GFA Basic Compiler 1st Word Plus Devpac Saved Fast Basic Compiler 1st Word Plus Devpac Saved Fast Basic (Disk) Beaurocracy Enchanter Hitch Hikers Gulde to Galaxy Hollywood Hight Hollywood Hight Sorocere Spelbreaker Timity Wishbringer Prohibition K Spread 2 Wishbringer Hollywood Hight K Spread 2 Megamax C Gambridge Lsp Lattice C Cambridge Lsp Lattice C C Make MCC Pascal Menu + Goldrunner Balance of Power At Director	Co. puter Concepts Computer Concepts Gentop Gentop Gentop Gentop Gentop Gentop Gentop Hisoft Hisoft Computer Concepts Infocom	£45.00 £81.00 £81.00 £81.00 £81.00 £81.00 £81.00 £84.00 £84.00 £84.00 £84.00 £72.00 £72.00 £92.50 £92.50 £92.50 £92.00 £92.00 £92.00 £92.00 £92.00 £92.00 £92.00 £92.00 £92.00 £92.00 £92.00 £92.00 £92.00 £92.00 £93.00 £9	Delta 4.3 Dac-Base Superhase Personal (Gem) Retrieve GBase (Gem) SSI Data Tas Plus  ENTERTAINM ADVENTURE GAMES Portal Dragonworld Fahrenheit 45 Nine Princes in Amber Ballyhoo Deadline Enchanter Enchanter Enchanter Invisiclues Hitchikkers Guide to Galaxy Leather Godesses of Phobos Moornist Trinity Wishbringer Zork 1 Zork 2	Compset DAC DAC Precision Sage SPI SSI Tas  - Activison - Autiogenic - Audiogenic - Audiogenic - Audiogenic - Infocom - Infoco	\$41.00 \$31.00 \$41.00 \$91.00 \$95.00 \$183.00 \$183.00 \$183.00 \$183.00 \$183.00 \$183.00 \$21.00	Dac Easy Port FI Modula 2 The Knife-86 Learning DOS Quick Basic Bookmark Fastback Turbo Pascal Database Sideways WORD PRC Mindreader Executive Wordsar 1512 First Word Plus Volkswifter 3 Word Junior Wordperfact Linior Wordperfact Executive Wordperfact Turbo Pascal Database Mindreader Executive Wordperfact Database Mindreader Executive Wordperfact Turbor Tasprint Po Wordperfact Linior MISCELL Basic Z Marual	Dac Hisoft Hisoft Hisoft Hisoft Hisoft Microsoft Infellisoft Microsoft Infellisoft Strand Period Hisoft His	\$39.00   \$45.00   \$25
Juki 6200  PRINTER ACCESSORIES  Epson LX80 86 Tractor Unit	£25 £155 £220 £105 £105 £105 £20 £55 £20 £55 £20 £55 £230 £2.30 £2.39 £2.39 £2.39 £3.85 £3	Back Pack Fast Basic GFA Basic Compiler 1st Word Plus Devpac Saved Fast Basic GFA Basic Compiler 1st Word Plus Devpac Saved Fast Basic (Disk) Beaurocracy Enchanter Hitch Hikers Guide to Galaxy Hollywood Hijimx Leather Godesses of Phobos Sorcerer Spelibreaker Trinity Wishbringer Prohibition K Spread 2 Megamax C Assembler BCPL Cambridge Lisp Lattice C Make MCC Pascal Menu + Goldrunner Balance of Power Art Director Fleet Street Editor Fleet Stre	Co. puter Concepts Computer Concepts Glentop Glentop Glentop GST Hisoft Hisoft Computer Concepts Infocom Infoc	£45.00 £54.00 £54.00 £54.00 £55.00 £55.00 £55.00 £55.00 £72.00 £72.00 £72.00 £72.00 £72.00 £72.00 £73.50 £75.00 £7	Delta 4.3 Dac-Base Dac-Base Superbase Personal (Gem) Retrieve GBase (Gem) SSI Data Tas Plus  ENTERTAINM ADVENTURE GAMES Portal Dragonworld Fahrenheit 45 Nine Princes in Amber Ballyhoo Deadline Enchanter Enchanter Godesses of Phobos Moonmist Usaber Godesses of Phobos Seastalker Trinity Wishbringer Zork 1 Zork 2 Zork 3 Jewels of Darkness	Compset DAC DAC Precision Sage SPI SSI Tas  - Activision - Audiogenic - Audiogenic - Audiogenic - Audiogenic - Infocom - Infoc	£41.00 £31.00	Dac Easy Port FI Modula 2 The Knife-86 Learning DOS Quick Basic Bookmark Fastback Turbo C Turbo Pascal Database Sideways  WORD PRC  Mindreader Executive Wordstar 1512 First Word Plus Volkswifer 3 Word Junior PC Witte Wordperfect Limitor Wordperfect Personal Wordperfect Daray Tasword PC Tasyorin PC Wordperfect MISCELL Basic 2 Manual Latus Autosketch drawing tool Motor Trade Package Professionals Package	Dac Hisoft Hisoft Hisoft Hisoft Hisoft Hisoft Microsoft Infellisoft Microsoft Infellisoft Sh Generation Borland Borland Borland Funk Software Funk Software Microsoft Sistematical Hisoftware Microsoft Sage Sistematical Hisoftware Hisof	239.00 P45.00 P45.00 P25.50 P25.00 P57.00 P58.00 P58.00 P46.00 P46.00 P46.00 P46.00 P58.00 P5
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PRINTER ACCESSORIES  Epson LV80 86 Tractor Unit Epson LV80 86 Tractor Unit Epson LV80 86 Tractor Unit Epson LV80 86 Tractor Feder Juli 6 100 E200 Sheet Feeder Juli 6 100 E200 Sheet Feeder Citizen 1200 Sheet Feeder Sheet Feeder Sheet	225 250 250 250 250 250 250 250 250 250	Back Pack Fast Basic GFA Basic Compiler 1st Word Plus Devpac Saved Fast Basic GFA Basic Compiler 1st Word Plus Devpac Saved Fast Basic (Disk) Beaurocracy Enchanter Hitch Hikers Guide to Galaxy Hollywood Hijimx Leather Godesses of Phobos Sorcerer Spelibreaker Trinity Wishbringer Prohibition K Spread 2 Megamax C Assembler BCPL Cambridge Lisp Lattice C Make MCC Pascal Menu + Goldrunner Balance of Power Art Director Fleet Street Editor Mercenary Compendium Chess Jewels of Darkness Silicon Dreams Silicon Dreams	Co. puter Concepts Computer Concepts Gentop Gentop Gentop Gentop Gentop Gentop Gentop Gentop Gentop Hisoft Computer Concepts Infocom I	£45.00 £51.00 £51.00 £51.00 £51.00 £51.00 £55.00 £5	Deta 4.3 Dac-Base Dac-Base Superbase Personal (Gem) Rethreve GBase (Gem) SSI Data Tas Plus  ENTERTAINM  ADVENTURE GAMES Portal Dragonworld Fahrenheit 451 Nine Princes in Amber Ballyhoo Deadline Enchanter Invisiclues Hitchikkers Guide to Galaxy Leather Godsess of Phobos Moornist Planettal Seastaker Trinity Wishbringer Zork 1 Zork 2 Zork 2 Zork 1 Zork 1 Zork 2 Zork 2 Zork 2 Zork 1 Zork 2 Zork 2 Zork 1 Zork 2 Zork 2 Zork 2 Zork 3 Zork 1 Zork 2 Zork 2 Zork 2 Zork 2 Zork 2 Zork 2 Zork 3 Zork 4 Zork 4 Zork 2 Zork 3 Zork 4 Zork 3 Zork 4 Zork 4 Zork 5 Zork 5 Zork 5 Zork 6 Zork 7 Zork 7 Zork 7 Zork 1 Zork 7 Zork 1 Zork 1 Zork 2 Zork 1 Zork 2 Zork 1 Zork 2 Zork 2 Zork 3 Zork 6 Zork	Compset DAC DAC Precision Sage SPI SSI Tas  - Activision - Audiogenic - Audiogenic - Audiogenic - Audiogenic - Infocom - Infoc	E41,00 (251,00	Dac Easy Port FI Modula 2 The Knife-86 Learning DOS Ouick Basic Bookmark Fastback Turbo Pascal Database Sideways  WORD PRC Mindreader Executive Wordsar 1512 First Word Plus Volkswifter 3 Word Junior Wordperfact Linior Wordperfact Executive Wordperfact Executive Wordperfact Linior Linio Li	Dac Hisoft Hisoft Hisoft Hisoft Hisoft Hisoft Hisoft Microsoft Intellisoft Microsoft Intellisoft Sh Generation Borland Borland Borland Funk Software Funk Software Microsoft Sistematical Hisoftware Microsoft Sage Sistematical Hisoftware Hisoftware Bijth Craftware Bijth Craftware Bijth Craftware Bijth Craftware Carton Compsoft Milrorsoft Sistematical Hisoftware Sistematical His	239.00 245.00 255.00 255.00 255.00 270.00 261.00 26
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# Of mice and men

a regular reader of *Popular*, I could hardly fail to notice its enthusiasm regarding the Atari ST computer. Feeling the need to upgrade from my Sinclair Spectrum, I was also very interested in it, and finally bought a 520STFM and SC1224 colour monitor a few months ago. Potential purchasers may be interested in my verdict:

Every computer has its faults and dare I be the first (?!) to publicise those of the ST in *Popular*.

I was slightly disappointed with the GEM operating system, but only because I've been spoiled by the Macintosh (which I have access to at University). It is a shame that DR did not take time to improve on the desktop concept (which I am sure is possible), instead of producing an imitation which is not as comprehensive. For example, icons cannot be repositioned within a window and file names are restricted to eight letters with an three letter extension. Double clicking requires daily finger exercises unless you copy the control panel accessory onto every disc to slow the mouse down. These are minor gripes however: GEM is an effective WIMP environment and makes the ST one of the most friendly home computers around.

Another minor gripe: there may be 512 colours available, but a large number of these are extremely similar shades of red or green. Although having two buttons on the mouse is an unforgivably daft idea, you do get used to it since most software designers with their heads screwed on only use one of them (the left). But the right button is there, and those without their heads screwed on can easily fall into the trap of using it (eg *Neochrome*). Sometimes, as in the case of *Arena* (an athletics simulation), the programmers seem to have no idea what the mouse is there for, and the user is

at first completely baffled by the menus which need to be double clicked.

But, let's face it, the best thing about the ST is its price. It is cheaper now than many 8-bit computers (Commodore 64 + Disk drive, BBC); and yet infinitely more powerful. My niggles about the operating system are really a wider criticism of all operating systems; even the Mac is frustrating at times, and a breakthrough in artificial intelligence is required to make a computer more friendly than that. Manufacturers I think should spend more time and effort on the "man/machine interface" as well as the hardware, since this is one program which will be used regularly by everyone who buys the computer. Even though I can't afford a Macintosh, Apple remains my favourite computer company. As you read this, Apple programmers are using the Cray Supercomputer to design the operating environment for their next generation of computers: while Atari is meddling with the Inmos Transputer for the ultimate in speed; the operating system may be a last minute consideration. Acorn also has designed the fastest micro around, but hastily botched in a Wimp written in Basic; the hardware of the Archimedes can support a much more advanced system to control it.

The ST is an important machine because it ducks under the price point beyond which the British Public wouldn't buy it. Machines as powerful as this have been around for years, but only now have they entered the home computer niche. Atari have made a big step forward for the computer industry because people will look over our shoulders and see that computers have become friendlier since the Sinclair Spectrum days. Perhaps there is another home computer boom in the offing?

**Andrew McOwan** 

This week, due to overwhelming demand, we have decided that it is about time to launch a new puzzle.

And it has also been decided that the best people to think of a new format for the puzzle would be you, the readers.

So, in essence, this week's puzzle is to think of a puzzle; which will start the week after next.

As with all other puzzles, the person who invents the most interesting format for the new puzzle (phew this is getting confusing, Ed!) will receive a prize, which for this special case will be £20.

Because this is such an important decision, we have decided to run this 'design a puzzle' competition for two weeks, so the closing date is October 16.

Send all your ideas to Puzzle Ideas, Popular Computing Weekly, Greencoat House, Francis Street, London SW1P 1DG.

# HACKERS

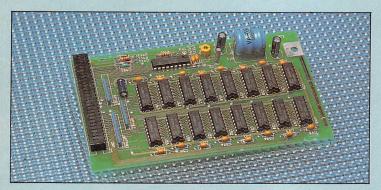


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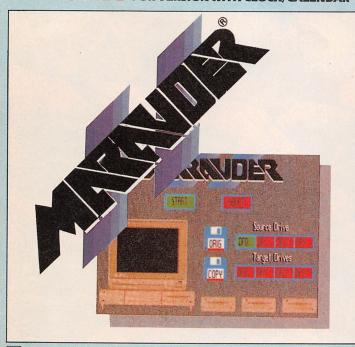


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